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www.kentnews.co.uk

Issue no 189

Pupil rushed to hospital after javelin spears him

By James Benjamin

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AN INVESTIGATION is under way at the Norton Knatchbull School after a teenager had to be airlifted to hospital after being speared by a javelin.

Ambulance crews were called to the boys' grammar on Hythe Road on Thursday afternoon after the incident during a PE lesson.

Student Ed Stuckey, 14, had to have the javelin removed from his shoulder by a hydraulic tool – normally used to free people trapped in cars – by firefighters who had rushed to the scene.

While anxious pupils and teachers looked on, the teenager was collected by the air ambulance from the school's playing field.

The youngster was taken to Kings College Hospital in London where he underwent surgery.

Doctors say he had no fractures or serious internal injuries and was now on the road to recovery.

It is understood he was on the running track when the accident happened, surrounded by up to 90 other students.

The circumstances surrounding the accident are now being investigated by staff at the school.

Kent Police say they are not taking the issue any further and say the issue is being treated as an accident.

Headteacher Susanne Staab said: "I would like to praise the immediate response and actions of our first aiders and the emergency services. They were superb and I cannot thank them enough."

"The students, who were on the school field at the time, acted in a very mature and responsible manner, as I would expect of them."

"I met the family that afternoon and have kept in contact with them."

"Everyone at the school sends their best wishes to him for a speedy and full recovery and we are pleased that he is doing well after hospital treatment."

"My attention is now turned to establishing what happened and this is an absolute priority."

■ For more news and views from Ashford and the surrounding villages, see our website, updated daily, www.yourashford.co.uk.



Bumper crop as fruit harvest comes early

Full story – see inside

ANIMALS

TV star saves a little lamb

CHAT show host Paul O'Grady has come to the rescue of an abandoned lamb – thrown in a wheelie bin in Manchester. The star, who lives in Aldington, was moved by the plight of the animal, named Winston, and decided to give it a new home and a new start on his farm in the countryside.

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FOOTBALL

United learn new league

IT was mixed emotions for the newly formed Ashford United after the Football Association finally confirmed in which league the team will play its football next season. The team will kick-off next season, a little over a year after the former incarnation - Ashford Town FC - collapsed.

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FESTIVAL

Prince heads into Kent

PRINCE is to play his first UK show for four years in Kent, after it was confirmed the music legend will headline an extra day at the Hop Farm Festival on July 3. The Paddock Wood event already has stars such as The Eagles, Morrissey and Lou Reed taking to its stage for the weekend.

PAGE 2

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News

BROADBAND

New £42m deal could put county online for superfast broadband

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

SUPERFAST broadband could be extended to every part of Kent if a massive £42 million government funding application is approved.

County Hall wants to upgrade network access and speeds over the next four years and has presented a business case to the team in charge of the £530m Broadband Delivery UK budget.

Currently about seven per cent of households in Kent have no access to broadband services of any kind, while 40 per cent are unable to achieve fixed-line transfer rates of two megabits per second.

It is hoped this latest initiative will address these issues, with BDUK set to announce the next four projects to receive funding, on Friday, May 27.

Cllr Kevin Lynes, KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said he was keeping his fingers crossed that the application would be successful.

He added: "This is about KCC taking responsibility for overseeing the roll-out of new next-generation broadband



UPGRADE: Superfast broadband could be rolled out over four years

across the county for our 1.5 million residents.

"Although broadband is readily available across most of Kent, the difficulty now is that we need more bandwidth.

"Kids expect to be able to come home from school, log onto Skype, Facebook

and so on to upload pictures and download songs and videos, so the requirements are exceeding what's been put into the ground."

"The same goes for businesses that rely on the faster broadband speeds, and in some rural locations it's very difficult for people to get the technology."

"Forty per cent of small businesses are in rural locations and it's they who don't have access to broadband or sufficient bandwidth."

The announcement of the funding bid was made at the NextGen broadband roadshow, held at the River Centre, Tonbridge, on Friday.

Also revealed at the event were the winners of the first round of KCC's £1.5m superfast broadband regeneration fund and £1m community broadband grant programme.

Shepway council, the Lympne and Stanford Partnership and a host of parish councils were among the grateful recipients of up to £100,000 from the regeneration fund and £50,000 from the community fund.

Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark, minister for decentralisation, was among the guest speakers at the roadshow.

FESTIVAL

Let's Go Crazy with Prince at Hop Farm

MULTI-MILLION selling rock star Prince has been confirmed as a headline performer for this year's Hop Farm Festival.

The Purple Rain star will play an extra third day at the Paddock Wood venue on Sunday, July 3.

It will be the American's only UK date this summer and his first show in the country since his record-breaking 21-night stint in 2007 at the O2 Arena in London.

He will join Friday night headliners The Eagles and Saturday night bill topper Morrissey.

Organisers of the popular festival have added a third day to the previously announced two-day event to accommodate the star, who is playing concerts across Europe, including headlining a festival in Poland 24-hours prior to the Kent show.

Existing ticket holders will be able to upgrade for £40 for the extra day, or £70 Sunday-only tickets will be available. Three-day festival passes will cost £170.

Details of the show leaked out last weekend, before being confirmed last Wednesday morning.

It represents a major coup for festival organiser Vince Power, who has worked with the star in the past and is keen to establish the festival as a major event on the UK's musical calendar.

Mr Power said: "I am really excited about having Prince at the Hop Farm, we have worked hard to get the third day up and running and we hope that fans will appreciate the integrity of the bill and see it's one of the most musically exciting this year that stands head and shoulders above a lot of other festivals."

Prince shot to global fame in 1984 with this multi-million selling Purple Rain album and film. He followed that up with a string of hits including Kiss, Sign O The Times, U Got The Look and Alphabet Street.

He had a public spat with record label Warner Bros and split from the company, daubing the word 'Slave' on his face and changing his name to a symbol.

But he has since changed his name back, and continues to release albums – two of his most recent, Planet Earth and 20Ten, were given away free in lucrative deals with national newspapers.

He continues to dazzle audiences with



THE ONE: Prince is the headline star on the third day of the Hop Farm Festival

hit-heavy shows, along with legendary 'aftershows' where he frequently performs at intimate venues in the early hours, and is currently performing another 21-night stint in Los Angeles as part of his Welcome 2 America tour.

Tickets for the Hop Farm Festival, including the Sunday night show, are available now.

A full support line-up for the Prince show is expected to be confirmed with the coming days.

ANIMAL RESCUE

TV star the saviour of lamb left in wheelie bin

Ian Read

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CHAT show host Paul O'Grady has sprung to the rescue of a little lamb – callously dumped in a wheelie bin.

The star – who shot to fame with his alter ego Lily Savage – has given the lamb, called Winston, a new start in life on his farm in Aldington.

Winston had been dumped in a bin near Manchester.

Last week, the two-month-old lamb was delivered to his new home by Inspector Caroline Hall who is pursuing the culprits.

Before coming to the star's farm Winston was bottle fed around the clock by an RSPCA fosterer.

Mr O'Grady said: "The RSPCA has done a wonderful job. Winston is a big, strong healthy boy now – nothing like the state he was in when they found him."

Since buying the farm from comedian Vic Reeves – who now lives in Charing – Mr O'Grady has built up his only

menagerie, including several sheep of various breeds.

He also keeps goats and dogs on the farm and Winston can expect to live to a ripe old age.

The star added: "He's skipping around and he's got his own barn so he's very happy. He's very friendly and loves human company. He's in his element."

Although Winston was under weight and needed treatment for an ulcerated eye, he has made a great recovery.

Mr O'Grady heard about Winston from a national newspaper and decided he was going to help.

The lamb was named by six-year-old Zoe Sutton, from Leeds, who got the chance to see him before he moved south.

She said: "He's so cute I love him already. I hope I'm allowed to see him again."

Her mum Donna, 31, said Zoe was heartbroken when she heard about the little lamb.

She said: "How anybody could do such a thing is despicable."



SANCTUARY: Paul O'Grady has given sheep a new home on his farm

Zoe named him after a tough lamb in the Garfield comic series.

Inspector Hall said: "It's nice to see him gambolling about in his new home. We are grateful to Paul for giving Winston such a great new start after his unhappy beginning."

FOOTBALL

United look on the bright side after league confirmed for next season

CHIEFS at Ashford United Football Club admitted to mixed emotions after it was finally confirmed the club would be playing in a lower league than hoped for.

The Football Association confirmed the newly formed team – born from the ashes of Ryman League Ashford Town which folded last summer – would be playing in the new Kent Invicta League next season.

That's one step below the Kent League – and two leagues below where the town's club last played in the non-league pyramid. The club and fans had hoped they would be able to kick off next season in the Kent League.

Club chief Paul Bowden-Brown, who this week is to undergo major surgery in London after falling seriously ill, admitted initial disappointment at the news.

But he said: "We are a new club going into a new league and we will be making our own history."

"Now that we know what league we



SUPPORT: Paul Bowden-Brown has called on fans to back their new club

are playing in we can make solid plans with our management team to ensure Ashford United FC start our climb through the non-league pyramid this coming season."

"I would like to thank all those that within the local football manage-

ment that had supported the club's ambitions, but be assured the name of Ashford United FC will be on the lips of many this coming season."

"I hope our supporters show their appreciation to the hard work that has been achieved to date at the club and we see them on the terraces but remember we are just starting our journey."

The FA's Mike Appleby said: "The committee took note of the regulations for the establishment and operation of the national league system which provides for 'new or reformed' clubs to be allocated a minimum of two steps below that in which the 'former' club played at the time of its demise."

The club, which plays at Kingsnorth's Homelands Stadium, collapsed last summer and was booted out of the Ryman League.

The new first team will be managed by former star Tony Reynolds. Other familiar names as part of the set-up include Paul Chambers and Lee McRobert.

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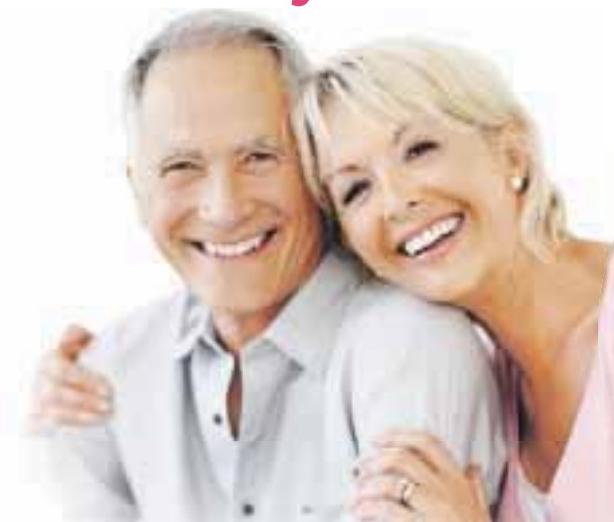
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RAPE ROW

Victims appalled by Clarke's proposal to halve jail terms for guilty-plea rapists

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

RAPE victims have argued that proposals to halve rapists' jail terms if they plead guilty early does not recognise the life sentence women receive at the hands of their attackers.

A focus group at Gravesend-based charity Family Matters, which supports hundreds of survivors of rape and childhood sexual abuse from across Kent, said they were appalled at the plans revealed by justice secretary Ken Clarke.

The Tory politician came under fire this week after disclosing proposals to slash sentences by half if offenders pleaded guilty early, including rapists.

Currently those who plead guilty at the earliest opportunity can see their jail term reduced by a maximum of 33 per cent, but a Government consultation is looking at increasing this to 50 per cent.



UNDER FIRE: Ken Clarke caused a row with his comments on rape

The focus group, which is made up of rape victims helping Family Matters propose changes to the Criminal Justice System, criticised the plan.

Clinical director for the charity Mary Trevillion said

although the group understood the proposal was being put forward to lessen the likelihood of further trauma for rape victims caused by attending court and being cross-examined, victims felt it undermined

6699

Rape is rape, but there are different circumstances in all rapes, just like it is different in all murders – but that is still a murder

MARY TREVILLION,
CLINICAL DIRECTOR FOR THE
CHARITY FAMILY MATTERS

again for parole the average rapist will serve just over 12 months in prison.

"It is the view of our victim group that this does not recognise the trauma, violation and for some, the life sentence they receive at the hands of their attackers."

Family Matter is also concerned that rapists with damning evidence against them who are advised by solicitors to plead guilty would benefit from the new rules.

Mr Clarke came under further criticism for comments made during a BBC 5 Live radio interview where he appeared to suggest that some rapes were less serious than others.

Responding to the interviewer who stated "rape is rape", Mr Clarke said: "No it's not. And if a 17-year-old has sex with a 15-year-old and she's perfectly willing, that is rape."

"No-one is saying a serious, proper rape case is going to be

let out of prison after 12 months."

The Labour Party called for Mr Clarke to resign, but instead he issued a clarification and apology promising to choose his words more carefully in future.

Mrs Trevillion said Mr Clarke's initial comments were "clumsy".

"Here at Family Matters a quarter of the 200 rape victims we saw last year were 12 to 16-year-olds raped by older boys – nothing was mutual."

"That lives in their hearts for the rest of their lives. Rape is rape, but there are different circumstances in all rapes, just like it is different in all murders – but that is still a murder."

Despite her criticism of Mr Clarke's comments, Mrs Trevillion disagreed that he should step down.

"I think it is perhaps better to have someone who now realises how serious this is and will be more sensitive in the future."

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REGIONAL GROWTH FUND

Airport chief's plea for regional cash to help east Kent take-off

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

MANSTON airport's chief executive has called on the Government to recognise east Kent's economic problems when allocating the next round of Regional Growth Fund cash.

Charles Buchanan is working with Kent County Council to submit an improved bid after a previous application for £10 million was rejected by the team in charge of distributing the £1.4 billion pot.

The Manston bid was for a parkway railway station serving the airport, an extension of the high-speed rail network between Ramsgate and Ashford, and cash to fund a daily air service to an undisclosed "European hub" airport.

But the application was dealt a further blow last week when Lord Michael Heseltine – chairman of the RGF independent advisory panel – hinted at a roadshow in Margate that Kent



IGNORED: Manston Airport's first bid for Regional Growth Fund cash

bids were at a disadvantage because the county's residents can travel short distances to London for work.

Mr Buchanan said: "The level that Thanet sits on the national indices of deprivation justifies the support we seek."

"It was made clear to Lord Heseltine at the roadshow that Kent is not entirely wealthy, particularly in the east of the county, and I would

hope he has taken that away with him.

"When dealing with government policy it's normal to have to deal with aggregates and averages; it just depends how local you are developing your policies."

"The Regional Growth Fund is supposed to support local initiatives, therefore we shouldn't be talking about county averages."

Not a single Kent application

was approved following the first round of RGF bids – worth a total of £450m – with only one in the whole of the Kent, Essex and East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership area being successful.

But Mr Buchanan said the Manston bid was submitted before Pfizer announced it will close its site in nearby Sandwich next year, with the expected loss of more than 3,000 jobs.

The second round, which aims to allocate the remaining £950m of the fund, opened to bids on April 12 and will close at noon on July 1.

"We need to take account of the Pfizer situation because the need for economic stimulation in the area is now much greater," said Mr Buchanan.

"We were disappointed not to have been awarded funding in the first round because we thought our bid had merits."

■ [Go to yourthanet.co.uk to read all the latest news and sports headlines.](http://yourthanet.co.uk)

POLICE

Estuary base to help police in fight against crime and terror

KENT Police's marine division has a new shore-side base after years of being located 15 miles from water.

The unit, which consists of three boats and is responsible for counter-terrorism and other marine crime, was previously based at Coldharbour near Maidstone, but has now been moved to the Port of Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth officially opened the new headquarters at a ceremony on Wednesday.

Also in attendance was Sgt Mark Wigston, who has been a member of the marine unit for 11 years.

He said: "Coldharbour was about 15 miles from a suitable waterside launching location, and the amount of time we spent travelling to and from the shore restricted our time on the water.

"Now the Thames Estuary is on the doorstep it makes a huge difference. The move to Sheerness makes perfect sense. We are where we should be – by the water."

YOUTH FOOTBALL

World Cup hero Hurst guest of honour at six-a-side event

ENGLAND 1966 World Cup legend Sir Geoff Hurst is coming to Maidstone this weekend to attend a six-a-side football tournament staged by Barming Youth FC.

The club won Saturday's visit after entering a competition on the FA and McDonald's website, www.thefa.com/yourgame.

Sir Geoff will hand out medals to the teams, take part in a Q&A session, chat to spectators and players, and watch matches at the event staged at St Simon Stock School in Barming, Maidstone.

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HOUSING

Groundbreaking plans to tackle homes issues

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

GOVERNMENT housing chiefs have been given a comprehensive wish-list in an attempt to improve the availability and affordability of homes in Kent.

A new housing strategy for the county was launched on Tuesday, calling for more support from ministers to improve transport infrastructure, cut red tape in the construction industry, and to make it easier for first-time buyers to get onto the property ladder.

The 66-page document also addresses the need to regenerate key brown-field sites, return empty homes to use, and improve the energy efficiency of existing homes.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter is chairman of the Kent Forum which commissioned the strategy.

He said: "In a county the size of Kent we need to do what the Victorians did so well, and that's to pre-plan for housing growth against the backdrop of significant demand."

"We need to make sure, as [former KCC leader] Sandy Bruce-Lockhart once said, that we plan not just houses but really strong commun-

ties with a sense of purpose and place.

"This county-wide housing strategy is the first of its kind in the country.

"Working with our partners in local councils and housing groups across Kent and Medway, it sets out pragmatic approaches to enable the delivery of the right mix of homes in the right locations."

Entitled Better Homes: Localism, Aspiration and Choice, the strategy addresses a raft of issues including the need to consider vulnerable groups and the support services they require.

It also calls for a bottom-up approach to housing growth in the wake of the abolition of the South East Plan, with district, borough and unitary authorities working together to secure adequate investment for the county.

The strategy also calls on the Government to simplify the regulatory framework for development, make public sector land available for development, and support people's aspirations for home ownership by finding new ways to finance mortgage products.

Sir Bob Kerslake – permanent secretary of the Communities and Local Government (CLG) department – delivered a speech at the launch and con-



BUILDING BLOCKS: Strategy calls for change to way new homes are delivered

gratulated Kent on its forward-thinking attitude.

He said: "Kent is very much ahead of the game and taking leadership of this very important issue."

"Kent is a big deal for the Government as the largest non-metropolitan authority, as a particularly powerful driver of growth in the Thames Gateway region and as a member of one of the largest Local Enterprise Partnerships in the country.

"Our job (at CLG) is to get rid of the barriers to growth and provide incentives for growth in local areas."

As part of the Localism Bill currently going through Parliament, local councils will be given more power to decide their own housing targets.

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ANIMAL EXPORTS

Authority's hands tied over live animal exports at port

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A FORMER Soviet tank carrier is to begin the transportation of live animals through Ramsgate port – reigniting mass opposition from Kent's animal rights campaigners.

Thanet District Council, which runs the port, was faced with legal action unless it allowed live exports to begin after receiving an application from an unnamed company wanting to transport livestock.

Commercial services manager Mark Seed said although the council had resisted strongly, it had no choice but to allow the trade in sheep, pigs and cows to Calais to go ahead.

"We are exceptionally unhappy about this situation and the potential impact such trade could have on the port, but there is no legal basis on which we can refuse the use of the port for this purpose," he said.

"Ramsgate is an open port and companies have a right to use it for the purposes of trade.



LEGAL: Live animal exports

"To take legal action against live animal exports would involve a significant cost to the taxpayer and, as has been shown in previous cases, sadly it is unlikely to prevent it."

Mr Seed said the council was aware of the strong feelings the issue evoked and urged those opposed to take it up at a national level rather than staging protests at the port.

"The last thing we want is to see trade at the port suffer through protests," he added.

In the 1990s campaigners protested against the conditions animals suffered on long journeys from Europe.

Dover Harbour Board tried

to ban livestock ships but lost in the High Court after it was ruled that ports must have an open port policy to legal goods.

Ferry companies, however, are under no obligation to accept live exports.

Brian Rees from P&O said operators argued that protests and a loss of passengers who boycott ferry firms which allowed live exports meant it would not accept livestock.

But independent boat operators still do so and former Soviet tank carrier Joline is now starting the shipment of animals through Kent.

Dover port was unable to accept the vessel due to the berth which allows such shipments being out of use, meaning Ramsgate was the next viable option.

Mr Rees said: "If someone wants to operate a ship within all the rules and regulations to carry legal goods – and the livestock trade is still legal – that's their right and in the defence of free trade the principle is that ports must be receptive to you."

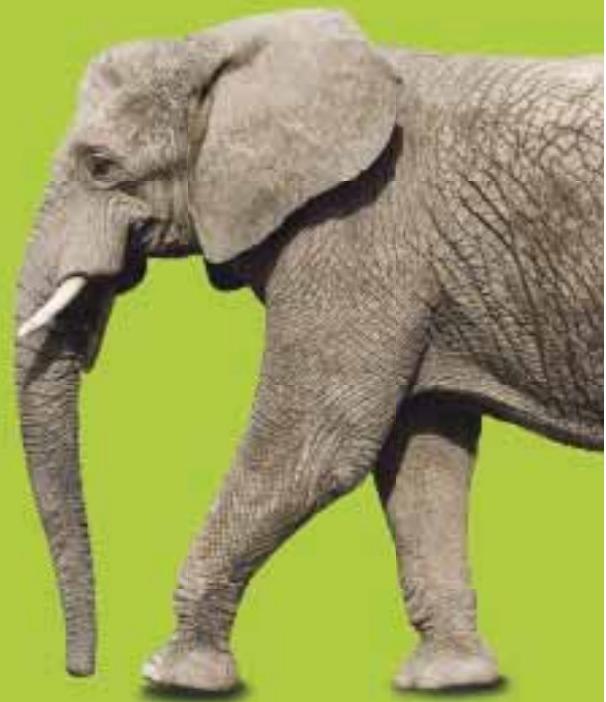
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POLICING

Cut to officer numbers will make on-the-spot fines tough to police

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

ON-THE-SPOT fines for bad drivers will be worthless if there are fewer officers to issue them, says the chairman of Kent Police Federation.

Ministers say motorists who tailgate, overtake or cut others up often go unpunished, and that introducing instant penalties of at least £80 and three licence points would be more efficient.

But while welcoming the principle of the plan, KPF chairman Ian Pointon said the expected loss of 500 officers in the county would make it unworkable.

"Of course, it would save officers a lot of time because they would not have to go to court if the driver pays the fine," he said.

"But the big issue for me is that if you have on-the-spot fines then you also need on-the-spot police to issue them, and we're losing 500 in Kent."

"The Government can give us all the new powers it wants, but if we haven't got enough officers on the ground, then what's the point?"

"The other difficulty is that the really ridiculous driving is primarily caught by unmarked police cars."

"People say there are never police around when

they're being tailgated or cut up, but that's because drivers don't really do stupid things when there's a marked patrol car around."

"I suppose the question is if it's a bit of window dressing by the Transport Secretary (Philip Hammond) to almost allay concerns about the loss of speed cameras and that sort of thing."

Mr Pointon represented the KPF at this week's annual Police Federation conference, when national chairman Paul McKeever accused the Conservatives of "taking revenge" for failed attempts to reform police pay back in 1993.

Meanwhile, a vote in the House of Lords has rejected the planned introduction of police and crime commissioners.

The Government wants to replace police authorities with directly-elected individuals in May next year, but the issue must now return to the House of Commons for further discussion.

Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes said: "The debate of their Lordships questions the evidence as to whether the introduction of police and crime commissioners is in the interest of taxpayers."

Indeed, Baroness Harris, who introduced the amendments, said the evidence for making this change was incredibly thin, and that the



FINE: Ministers want drivers to be issued with instant penalties of at least £80 and three licence points consequences of implementing it have not been properly researched or thought through.

"Our police authority here in Kent has already shared our similar concerns with the Government, in particular the dangers of allowing one individual to have unchecked powers and the potential to bring politics into policing."

"I hope the Government will now take stock and take its time to really consider the concerns highlighted by their Lordships."

CRIME

Phone line offers hate crime victims a voice

VICTIMS of hate crime have been thrown a lifeline with the introduction of a new reporting system aimed at giving sufferers a voice.

Kent Police have set up a dedicated phone line staffed by a specially-trained non-police team to deal with reports of homophobic, racist, religious or disability-related incidents.

It follows research which revealed some victims are reluctant to report incidents directly to police, meaning hate crimes are under-reported in the county.

Det Supt Jon Sutton, head of crime and intelligence at Kent Police, said: "It can have a devastating effect not only on victims, but also families and communities. We want victims to know they have a voice, they will be listened to, and will have a say in the outcome for those perpetrating this type of abuse."

The new phone line will allow people to report all hate incidents relating to their gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, disability or age.

Offenders face harassment warnings, cautions and mediation meetings, or court appearances and possible imprisonment.

Earlier this month a director of public prosecutions Keir Starmer said thousands of disability hate crimes were going unreported with bullying so widespread it was considered routine.

Kent Police figures revealed there were 52 reports of hate crime, including disability, in 2010-11 – 117 when taking incidents deemed too minor for charges to be brought into account – and 35 (96) hate crimes in 2009-10.

Crown Prosecution Service statistics for the county showed there were just six prosecutions for disability hate crime in 2008-09 and 10 in 2010-11.

The new reporting line is on 0800 138 1624 and is staffed 24 hours a day.

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SEX EDUCATION BILL

Give girls sex abstinence classes, says MP

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A CONTROVERSIAL bill calling for teenage girls to be given lessons promoting abstinence has been branded discriminatory by sex education experts.

Lisa Nix, from Teaching Lifeskills, based in Sevenoaks, said the 10-minute rule bill introduced by Tory MP Nadine Dorries insinuated that girls alone held the responsibility for sexual activity.

"The proposed bill carries discrimination against boys as well as girls," she said.

"If it were to address sexual promiscuity and teenage pregnancy then it is not difficult to assume both genders should receive the same attention."

Furthermore, the newly introduced Equality Act 2010 provides the basic framework of protection against direct and indirect discrimination in education, amongst other sectors.

"To introduce a gender specific bill in Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) would certainly be a contradiction to the above."

The bill, which passed its first reading in the House of Commons, called for schools to provide certain additional sex education to girls aged



IT TAKES TWO: Sex education experts say the views of young people should be listened to, as well as MPs

6699

Whatever we have done so far isn't working. The fact is casual attitudes to sex is one of the things leading to social breakdown.

CONSERVATIVE MP, JULIAN BRAZIER

13-16 and that such education must include information and advice on the benefits of abstinence from sexual activity.

MP for Canterbury Julian Brazier is backing the bill.

"If we are going to teach sex education it is right that young people are made aware of all the options available to them," he said.

"The British Medical Journal found a truly shocking statistic: 93 per cent of teenagers who became pregnant had seen a medical professional prior

to the pregnancy and 71 per cent had discussed contraception.

"Yet the UK has the highest teen pregnancy rates in Western Europe, evidence that whatever we have done so far it isn't working."

Asked whether he believed boys should be included in the abstinence bill, he said: "A number of people didn't vote because it was confined to girls. I would prefer it to include boys as well. It takes two to make a baby."

"The fact is the casual attitudes to sex is one of the things leading to social breakdown."

"I will be talking to Nadine about the inclusion of boys."

Teenage pregnancy rates in Kent are highest in Thanet, although figures in the area decreased from 425 in 2005-2007 to 400 in 2007-2009.

Figures for Medway showed a drop from 258 to 227 pregnancies between 2007 and 2009.

Ms Nix said: "Good SRE should not be about teaching one thing, but about empowering young people with knowledge, practical skills and enough self esteem to be able to make healthy decisions about all their relationships, whether sexual or otherwise."

"As part of an ongoing holistic approach to teaching SRE, teaching children to consider whether they are

ready for a sexual relationship and all the responsibilities that come with that is important, for boys and girls."

"This is not the same as teaching abstinence to girls."

Ms Nix added: "The UK does have the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Europe, but if you look at the countries that have a proportionally lower rate, you will notice that they teach comprehensive programmes of SRE."

"High quality and effective SRE, based on a full needs assessment, taught with continuity and evaluation, will be beneficial to young people."

"Inconsistent and sporadic SRE will not. Instead it will continue to fuel the misguided and mistrustful opponents of this most important subject."

Teaching Lifeskills, which is supported by Kent County Council, offers different teaching packages for SRE at junior and senior level.

Ms Nix said sex and relationship lessons should be compulsory within the National Curriculum.

"At the moment there is no continuity amongst schools across the country as to what is taught," she said.

"It is an emotive subject with many views, and although the comments of MPs and professional organisations are important, it is possibly the younger generations we should be listening to."

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One in 10 prisoners reoffend within three months of release

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

REOFFENDING rates have revealed how one in 10 ex-prisoners ends up back in court within just months of release.

Ministry of Justice figures showed that between January and December last year 9.47 per cent of adult offenders in the county committed a crime in the first three months after leaving prison. The national figure was 9.75 per cent.

Kent Probation Service stressed the organisation was working to tackle reoffending.

A spokeswoman said: "We continually strive to reduce reoffending and protect the public, by working with a variety of partners from the police, health, local authorities and community safety partnerships, to manage offenders'



CONVICT: Almost 10 per cent reoffend within three months

risk and tackle the factors relating to their criminal activities, such as drug and alcohol misuse and poor education."

But Bobby Cummins OBE, an ex-offender and chief executive of Snodland-based Unlock – the National Association of Reformed Offenders – said the problem was the overuse of the prison system and Government's failing to address the cause of crime.

"If someone is locked up for

a short period, when they leave prison they'll know how to break into places, where to buy weapons or drugs – they don't get rehabilitated, they learn to become criminals," he said.

"Prison should be used for dangerous people, but for other offenders there should be community support to ensure they can get trained up, get the skills to get a job and pay their taxes – it costs £47,500 a year to keep one prisoner."

Unlock has secured private investment to push forward with its Diamond Project, which looks to create a community with housing and resources for ex-offenders linking up police, charities, education services and other bodies involved in the rehabilitation of former prisoners. Mr Cummins said the next step is to find land for the project.

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**PICTURE
PERFECT:**

Samuel Ault's Panda, Sevina Yate's glacial landscape Melting Jungfrau and Peter Ganders' Hammerhead School are on the shortlist of 150 artists trying to win this year's Wildlife Artist of the Year

ART COMPETITION

Trio compete for coveted Wildlife Artist of the Year

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THREE talented artists have been chosen by one of the world's top wildlife painters to have their work exhibited at the prestigious Mall Galleries in London.

In addition to the exhibition, Sevina Yates from Minster-on-Sea in Sheerness, Samuel Ault from Erith, and Peter Gander from Herne Bay, will also have the chance of winning £10,000 and the coveted title of Wildlife Artist of the Year.

The three artists stunned judges in a competition run by the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation.

Mr Shepherd, 80, who founded the charity, is an internationally renowned wildlife artist and conservationist. He said the works of the three Kent artists were among the best of the shortlist for 2011.

"Once again the competition has attracted an extraordinarily high standard of work from artists

around the world," he said.

More than 150 shortlisted artworks will be on display from Monday to Saturday, June 6-11, at the Mall Galleries. Sevina Yate's glacial landscape, Melting Jungfrau, will be among them, as well as Samuel Ault's Panda and Peter Gander's Hammerhead School.

The exhibition brings together wildlife art from amateur and professional artists with profits from sale of artwork supporting endangered animals.

Chief executive officer of the foundation Melanie Shepherd said: "This is a fabulous chance to view some of Britain's well-established and best-loved wildlife artists alongside exciting new talent, while at the same time supporting critically endangered mammals."

The winners will be announced at a private preview evening on June 6 by wildlife photographer and conservationist Mark Carwardine and Mr Shepherd.



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LEGAL

Cuts to legal aid threaten low earners

By Steve Knight

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UNDERHANDED employers may take advantage of legal aid cuts at the expense of low earners who cannot afford court fees, a solicitor has warned.

Nick Fairweather – chief executive of Canterbury-based Fairweather Solicitors – is supporting a Law Society campaign that opposes the Government's plan to cut the legal aid bill by £350 million over four years.

He believes that if low-paid workers lose the ability to take their bosses to court, businesses may get away with mistreating their staff or firing them without good reason.

Mr Fairweather said: "The effect of the cuts will be absolutely huge in Kent as social welfare is expected to be affected and that includes benefits, debt, housing, employment and community care.

"In the whole of east Kent my firm and one other are legally allowed to take about 100 legal aid cases, but that is already inadequate. We could easily do 200-250.

"But that's being swept away so there will be nowhere for people to get employment advice in the whole of east Kent. That's totally unacceptable and gives a green flag to disreputable employers to do whatever they want.

"Why should they do things properly if there's no-one to hold them to account?

"The picture will be the same throughout Kent and it's the people most in need who seem to be bearing the brunt of the cuts."

Under plans announced by the Ministry of Justice last year, legal aid will only be made routinely available in cases where an applicant's life or liberty is at stake.

The proposals, intended to reduce an annual bill of £2 billion, is thought likely to reduce the number of civil legal aid cases by 500,000.

"The cuts are entirely misconceived on all bases because the perceived economic benefits haven't been thought through," said Mr Fairweather.

"A hell of a lot of work has been done in recent years to properly fund qualified debt and benefit advice, and if you look at patterns of behaviour in housing cases that end up in court it's because people end up in debt or don't have their benefits processed properly."

Last week the director of the award-winning Kent Law School warned that students offering pro-bono services could not be expected to cover for the funding cuts.

The Law Society campaign Sound Off For Justice aims to persuade the Government to rethink the proposals. The campaign website – soundoffforjustice.org – allows visitors to sign a petition to Justice Secretary Ken Clarke.

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CARE HOMES

Private care homes may be facing closure

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

ELDERLY residents of Southern Cross care homes have been hit by reports the struggling firm plans to close up to 200 of its centres.

The company has been crippled by a combination of public spending cuts and a rising rent

bill, and wants to cut its losses according to claims in the national press.

Southern Cross currently runs 10 care homes in Kent and as yet no assurances have been given about their future.

The GMB union has some 10,000 members employed by the care provider and is accusing the company's landlords

of overcharging by up to £60 per week, per care home bed – totalling around £100 million per year.

Coincidentally, £100m is the same figure Southern Cross is said to need to secure from an investor to save it from collapse.

GMB senior organiser Paul Maloney said: "The situation at

Southern Cross is very serious.

"We have been telling the authorities and the landlords – particularly the largest, the Qatari Investment Authority – that the way the funding spent on the care of the elderly is being used to pay inflated rents is unsustainable, and our warnings have been totally vindicated.

"People playing politics, profits and interest rates with the welfare of 31,000 elderly and vulnerable residents who have served this country all their lives is totally out of order.

"It is a modern outrage made even worse as there are also 44,000 jobs at stake.

"The 750-plus care homes run by Southern Cross, including the 10 in Kent, are not factories failing from a lack of demand but are an essential part of every community which now face ruin due to the combination of privatisation and private equity."

Last week the firm asked landlords to slash rents by up to 30 per cent for the quarter from June, and it is believed sufficient numbers will back



UNCERTAIN FUTURE:

Financial problems could force Southern Cross to close some of its 10 care homes in Kent

the deal and pave the way for a long-term restructuring deal.

But according to the reports Southern Cross is still expected to get rid of between 100 and 200 homes, most of which will probably be taken over by a rival company.

Kent County Council currently pays about £2m a year to fund the care of 85 elderly people living in five of the homes. They are Elvy Court in Sittingbourne; Highfield in Canterbury; Kingsfield in Faversham; and Fairfield Manor and Woodlands, both in Broadstairs.

Cabinet member for adult so-

cial services, Graham Gibbons, said: "KCC officers continue a useful dialogue with the company, right up to the highest level.

"It is important and encouraging to know that standards of care are not slipping in Kent's Southern Cross homes because of the financial situation."

Southern Cross' five remaining Kent homes are Copper Beeches in Rochester; Frindsbury Hall in Strood; Adelaire in Bexleyheath; and Lauriston House and St Raphael's, both in Bromley.

Southern Cross declined to comment.



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For questions relating to the Board Meeting please contact Jill Mackenzie on 01233 667840 or email jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk





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COASTGUARD

Tug of war over future of emergency vessel

Picture: ROGER FOURNIER

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FRENCH authorities are to deploy a Navy tug from the Bay of Biscay to the Dover Straits to avoid an "environmental catastrophe".

The move follows a row between France and Britain over the removal of the emergency towing vessel (ETV) the Anglian Monarch from the Channel due to deep spending cuts by the UK Government.

The tug, which is paid for by authorities on both sides of the Channel, is sent to tow stricken ships to safety.

Hundreds of vessels pass through the stretch of water each day carrying oil and chemical waste, and France says the tug helps avoid environmental disaster.

But the British Government says its removal, along with three other UK tugs, will save taxpayers £10 million a year.

The Maritime and Coast-



TOW BOAT: The Anglian Monarch is used to tow stricken vessels

guard Agency said taxpayers should not foot the bill when ships got into trouble at sea.

A spokesman said: "If every time an articulated lorry was to break down and the public had to pay to get it towed, people would not be very happy."

"We are confident capacity in the commercial salvage industry will be enough to cover the removal of the tugs."

But France has now stepped in with an announcement by its secretary of state for transport Thierry Mariani that an RIAS – the equivalent of an ETV – called Abeille Languedoc will be drafted into the straits in September.

when the Anglian Monarch is expected to be removed.

Campaigner Jean Hendry, from Folkestone, said: "The French call them RIAS meaning 'Tugs for Intervention, Assistance and Rescue'.

"Our shipping minister dithers and promises future commercial towing replacement, ignoring that these vessels do so much more than towing."

"This is a cut in a frontline emergency service. Thank goodness for the French appreciation of the dangers of what was once the English Channel."

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CHILD CARE

Urgent plea for parents to join county's foster care network

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

FOSTER Care Fortnight is being celebrated in Kent with a drive to recruit 120 new parents.

The county is already home to about 700 foster carers but an ever-increasing number of looked-after children means local authorities are always on the lookout for potential new homes.

As part of the campaign that started on Monday, a couple from Hawkinge, near Folkestone, will appear on posters at Kent railway stations to promote the benefits of being foster parents.

Adverts are also running on the video-sharing website YouTube.



KCC cabinet member for specialist children's services, Cllr Jenny Whittle, said: "Our 700 foster carers do an amazing job. They are all making sure a child or young person can get the most out of life, and there are few jobs as rewarding as being a foster carer. But recruiting and training at KCC never stops, and this year we are looking for another 120 people to come forward and join our family of foster carers."

"They can be from all walks of life – single, married or living with a partner, either with or without children. But they need to have a real interest in helping children and be able to offer a child a stable, secure life in a loving family."

Cllr Whittle added that the authority's fostering service offers a range of benefits including financial rewards and training, alongside supervision and professional support.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/fostering or call 0845 330 2968 for more information.

Meanwhile, the county council has enlisted the services of former Barnardo's chief executive Martin Narey to review adoption services.

Mr Narey made headlines last January when he said the prejudiced attitudes of some local authorities and adoption agencies towards white parents adopting minority ethnic children could result in a collapse of adoption rates.

He has now been asked to see what can be done to increase the number of adoptions in Kent and how the council can speed up the process.

He said: "KCC deserves great credit for stepping forward to see whether and how adoptions can be increased in number and completed sooner.

"If they are successful, the lives of some of the most disadvantaged children in the county will be changed dramatically for the better."

Mr Narey will begin his research in July and report back in the autumn.

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WATER SUPPLIES

No hosepipe ban for Kent

THE county is unlikely to face a hosepipe ban this summer, according to the Environment Secretary.

Caroline Spelman said the South East has better provision than other parts of the country, despite the warm spring.

Water companies have also said that they do not expect a hosepipe ban.

CHARITY

Work ethic salvation for homeless

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A CHARITY for the homeless is helping to prepare for government spending cuts by opening a second-hand furniture shop run entirely by rough sleepers.

The Medway Emmaus store in Rochester High Street will

employ up to 24 workers hoping to turn their lives around, with the group also living together in premises in Chatham known as a 'community'.

The shop will open in July following more than a decade of the charity attempting to establish a community in the towns.

Manager Timi Aladewolu

said: "The services charities such as ours provide are vital in today's society, especially as we are very flexible in accepting anyone from anywhere."

"Society has a tendency of boxing people into certain categories, and those who don't fit in will often fall through the cracks and end up on the streets."

"But it's not a win-win situation because some people don't actually want to work."

"Of course the spending cuts will affect us all and they're going to have some kind of knock-on effect. Joblessness is one of the main reasons why people lose their homes."

Earlier this month Canterbury-based Porchlight charity reported an increase of nearly 25 per cent in a year in the number of people asking for help.

The organisation said 890 people approached it to seek help with finding somewhere to live in 2010, compared to 714 the year before.

Mr Aladewolu said the Medway Emmaus store will initially be staffed by volunteers, with



REBUILDING LIVES:
The Medway Emmaus store in Rochester will employ around 24 homeless people and house them in their own community at premises in Chatham

the community accommodation opening in October.

"It is this enterprise – initially a shop for Emmaus Medway – that will help people regain their self-esteem and skills, and it become the means to finance the community together with housing benefit."

The furniture store will be at 215-217 High Street in Rochester. Visit www.emmaus.org.uk/medway for more details.

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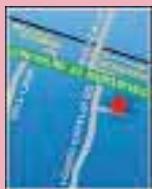
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COMPETITION

Win tickets to Lounge On The Farm

LOUNGE On The Farm festival is a unique combination of music and comedy headline acts – and two readers can each win a pair of tickets to this fantastic event.

From July 8-10 Merton Farm in Canterbury will be transformed into a boutique festival site, with its capacity doubled this year to 10,000 people.

Musical stars lined up for the main stage include The Streets, Ellie Goulding, Echo and

The Bunnymen, Graham Coxon, Everything Everything, The Vaccines, Cornershop, and Example – who is making his third LOTF appearance.

Big-name comedians entertaining the crowds include Sean Hughes and Phil Kay.

One of the most successful Canterbury bands, prog rock legends Caravan, have also been confirmed for the Meadows stage.

Having carved itself out a niche as a festival

known for its unique location on a real life, working farm, plus a focus on delicious food, family friendly atmosphere and reputable line-up, LOTF will cement itself as one of the key UK festivals for the summer.

This year sees the introduction of its new Main Stage, a move that will see the festival grow to new heights while preserving its core ethos – booking a line up that mixes new bands from across the board with classic heritage acts.

Meanwhile, The Cowshed – formerly the main stage – becomes The Hoe Down. The 2,000 capacity tent will turn into a dance arena.

The newest addition to the festival is The Meadows Stage, which will be a haven for an eclectic mix of bands across the musical spectrum.

All food and drink at The Meadows is locally sourced, including the delicious ales and ciders, and traders sell everything from kippers to scones. The cows are raised all year on Merton Farm to become the superb burgers and steaks served on site.

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of ticket to LOTF just answer this question:

Q) Which artist is making their third appearance at Lounge On The Farm this year?

- a) Ellie Goulding
- b) Example
- c) Graham Coxon

To enter text LOUNGE (space) answer, name and address and send to 64343. The service provider is JMedia UK Ltd, SE1 0QX, 0844 800 1188.



STARRY EYED: Singer Ellie Goulding will appear on the Main Stage at Lounge On The Farm

Texts cost £1 plus standard network rates. Entries received after the closing date of May 31, 2001, will not be counted but you may still be charged.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Funny man Ross monkeys about at birthday bash

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

GEORDIE comic Ross Noble was one of the guests of honour as the University of Kent celebrated 10 years of its stand-up comedy course.



The shaggy-haired funny-man – a regular guest on BBC panel shows – took part in 10 Monkeys Comedy Festival at the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury, on Thursday.

Noble, pictured, sat down for an on-stage conversation with the university's comedy lecturer Olly Double, with other final year students on the drama and theatre studies degree performing routines.

But despite Noble's visit to Kent, Mr Double said it would not change his belief that would-be comics should find their own unique style rather than copy those who have already made it.

He said: "It would be terrible if they all came up the same. I encourage them to have their own comedy tastes and like their own acts."

A former stand-up comedian himself, Mr Double helped launch the comedy module back in 2001, he is also a senior lecturer in drama.

He revealed that the 11 students signed up to the course get to perform regularly in front of their peers, with "thousands and thousands" having watched the shows over the years.

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WRESTLING

Wrestling star turns to comedy as main event

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

BRITISH wrestling star Desmond Wolfe has traded clotheslines for punchlines in an attempt to get his career back on track.

The former Maidstone Grammar School pupil – real name Steven Haworth – has not been seen on television since last September, and has now turned his attention to writing comedy while he awaits a return to the spotlight.

Wolfe, 33, who stars for America's number two grappling promotion TNA (Total Nonstop Action), told KoS he had been keeping himself busy during his time away from the ring.

He said: "I've been up to lots – auditioning for various things, writing and working hard on my physique."

"The sitcom was based on an idea a friend had. It's about a kid from Brixton in south London who gets forced to take a job doing meals on wheels in Brixham, Devon. I'm ready to pitch it if there's any interest. I'm also acting in a community theatre play called Everybody Loves Opal, which was first performed on Broadway in the 1960s."

"It's a very different performing art than wrestling, but being used to hav-

ing an audience watch me has helped."

Wolfe, who grew up in Staplehurst, made his TNA debut in October, 2009, and quickly established himself as a headline act.

But just hours before he was due to appear on a big pay-per-view event last September, Wolfe was mysteriously sent home for "personal reasons" and has not been seen on television since.

The chemistry graduate has suffered a catalogue of injuries in the ring, and the rumour was this had put paid to Wolfe's promising career.

But the now-resident of Louisville, Kentucky, said fans should not believe everything they read on the internet.

He added: "I can't get into the details of my absence here and now, but there have been a few different plans to bring me back in the last few months, none of which materialised. I'm hoping for something soon though."

Meanwhile, Wolfe's fellow Kent grappler Douglas Williams is continuing to enjoy success in TNA.

Williams, 38, who lives in Sevenoaks, has won five championships in less than three years, and is currently one-half of the British Invasion tag team with former Gladiators star Nick 'Oblivion' Aldis.

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GROWING PAIN: MPs are being asked to support a bill to protect the best land



FARMING

Change in planning laws needed to protect country's food security

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AGRICULTURAL scientists are backing a Kent MP's quest to prevent councils allowing building on land most suitable for food production.

South Thanet Conservative backbencher Laura Sandys has introduced a bill in Parliament which she says will tighten the country's food security by placing less reliance on European imports.

The motion has been welcomed by those within the agricultural industry including the head of science at East Malling Research, Dr Chris Atkinson.

He said: "Our population is relatively small and isn't going to grow dramatically but we still don't grow a lot of our own food. Our fruit production in particular is pretty terrible because we only grow about 10

per cent of what we eat.

"The implications for the future are that the food we get from abroad may not be available because a lot of the countries we import from may not be suitable any more. Places like Spain, Italy, Greece and other hot areas will run out of water before we do.

"Therefore we have to look at our own housekeeping as well as aiding others abroad.

"There's now more pressure on us to utilise good quality land so the UK can supply more of its own food."

According to Ms Sandys, an over-reliance on foreign imports has left consumers vulnerable to global price spikes, with Kent shoppers bearing the brunt of a 4.6 per cent increase in the cost of food last year.

She says the bill introduced in Parliament last week aims to prevent councils granting plan-

ning permission on Grade 1 agricultural land other than in extreme circumstances.

Ms Sandys said: "We need a statutory defence against those who might want to build on our most productive land.

"Our capacity to produce food is not seen as a strategic asset – not important to the country, its economy or the population's wellbeing – so we must now start regarding food security with the zeal we are approaching energy security.

"Domestic energy supply is seen as critical in our long-term energy security. So while we understand that reliance on volatile supplies of energy is bad for economic growth, stability and consumers, in the area of food security we need to start to put in the measures that will give us further certainty in terms of price, production and vulnerability of supply."

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FARMING

Word on the grapevine is the fruit harvest has come early

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE unexpected spring heatwave has brought an early taste of summer to strawberry lovers, with bumper crops already hitting supermarket shelves.

And it's not just the premature arrival of the seasonal favourite keeping Kent's residents happy, but the sweeter flavour caused by the recent sunny climes has made the fruit juicier and sweeter than normal.

Producer and owner of Quaives Farm in Wickham Breaux, Paul Kelsey, who is chairman of Berry Gardens, has seen his crop of Jubilee strawberries already delivered to Marks and Spencer's Canterbury store – two weeks earlier than expected.

Traditionally the Jubilee strawberry season runs from June to September.

Mr Kelsey said: "I encourage everyone in Canterbury to support local produce and savour the delicious flavours available on their doorstep."

But it's not just the early arrival of the succulent Jubilee strawberries getting everyone's taste buds tingling.

The sunny weather has also signalled bumper harvests for amateur gardeners and commercial farmers growing fruit crops, according to Tim Biddlecombe, of the Farm Advisory Services Team, advisors to the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale Farm in Faversham.

Plum, cherries and gooseberries are already around two weeks ahead of schedule at Brogdale.

"Last year's warm June and July followed by harsh winter has resulted in bountiful displays of blossom this spring," said Mr Biddlecombe.

"And the recent sunny weather is providing fantastic conditions for pollination and fertilisation, which means, potentially, a bumper harvest for gardeners and professional fruit growers."

But he warned there was still a risk of frost until the end of May which poses the biggest threat to tree-grown fruit crops.

"If there is a frost when there are small fruits on the tree, it can wipe out the whole crop as they will simply fall off the tree," he said.

"Unfortunately, there is nothing you can do to prevent frost damage."

Nevertheless, if the current weather conditions carry on with plenty of light, no frost and even a drop down to average seasonal temperatures, then there should be excellent crops on all fruit varieties."

Wine lovers are also celebrating the warm weather after it was revealed grapes are growing thick and fast in the spring sunshine.

Heather Burton at Biddenden Vineyards near Ashford said harvesting usually took place late September, but was expected to be a week or more earlier this year.

She added: "We have tours here which are set for different times of the year, for example bud burst, and we can see we're definitely ahead."



GRAPE NEWS: Biddenden Vineyards says early harvest will give its wines an extra fruity flavour



"If this sunshine continues the wine will have a lovely fruity flavour."

But while fruit growers welcomed the recent dry weather, farmers were warning of a potential shortage of wheat and cereal crops.

Smaller yields at harvest could mean the price of some foodstuffs pushed up as farmerstry and cover lost costs. The National Farmers Union is warning farmers to prepare for future anticipated shortages by working out mutually acceptable deals with merchants.

■ See yourswale.co.uk for local news and sports headlines

SWEET SUCCESS:

Quaives Farm owner Paul Kelsey (left), with Kain Price of Marks and Spencer's Canterbury store, which has already taken delivery of strawberries after the early harvest

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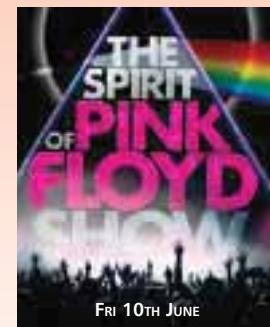
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OPINION

Have faith in young rebels

Dr Masi Noor, senior lecturer in psychology at Canterbury Christ Church University, says youth has played a big role in Middle Eastern uprisings

THE uprisings across the Middle Eastern countries have had many surprising elements, many of which have been amply analyzed by the media and social commentators.

What has been absent from these analyses, however, is the role of powerful psycho-cultural norms in making it much harder for the young protesters across the region to go out on the streets and rebel.

In particular, their ability to defy some of the norms that are embedded within countries in which Islam is the predominant source of moral influence has been rather impressive for me, both personally as an Afghan and professionally as a social psychologist.

The culture of respect for the elderly and people in authority across the Middle East has played a key role in the autocratic rulers securing social compliance to their regimes.

Typically, such compliance

is achieved through the potent route of emotions, in particular through inducing the powerful emotion of shame.

The constant reference to Egyptians as 'children' by Mubarak during the uprising in Egypt was more than a benign gesture of care and concern.

In fact, an official spokesman of the Mubarak government once asked the parents of these protesting 'children' to call them home.

When a BBC journalist confronted the spokesman by reminding him of the fact that the parents were also on the streets standing in protest next to their children, the indignant official replied that he would call on their grandparents to call them all home.

As if not hard enough, the young protesters must have had to fight off the emotional pressures against their engagement in the protests exerted by their own families, at least

at the initial stages of the protests.

Faced with the uncertainties of whether their young ones will bring about liberation or death onto themselves, naturally most families are likely to object to their children's participation in such risky activities.

Given the central place and power of the family in Islamic societies, it is thus even more impressive how the young protesters have managed to rise against the psychological double-challenge of authority and family.

It is then all the more regrettable to dent the uprisings across the Middle East by linking them to regional and international fundamentalist movements, such as Al-Qaeda, the Muslim Brotherhood and the likes.

Such conspiracy theories are used by the regional oppressive regimes as effective propaganda, but are also entertained

by some fearful observers in the West. The former is understandable, while the latter is unreasonable.

Of course, severe regional and international ramifications can be expected were the radical wing of the Muslim Brotherhood to become the new ruling party in Egypt.

However, considering the psychological and cultural hurdles, let alone the fear of death the young protesters have had to overcome before going out on the streets, our pessimistic prognosis seems more than misplaced.

Have confidence in their creativity to choose the right direction for themselves. Above all, give them a breathing break after all this hard work.

■ Dr Masi Noor is a senior lecturer in social psychology at Canterbury Christ Church University, and specialises in understanding conflict in divided societies.



6699

**Impressive
young
Islamic
protestors
had to rise
against the
double
challenge
of authority
and family**

KOS COMMENT

End spiral of despair for all our futures

IT'S a sad day when the next generation of young people lose hope of a bright career before they have even started working out their future paths.

And to start life believing few or no career goals are achievable doesn't instil confidence that these young people are the future. But it's not their fault poverty has stopped them in their tracks.

It's time to stop what could be a downward spiral and show them education is the way to follow your dreams.

Dover can still win gold from Olympics

DOVER can put on a brave face and say hosting the Olympic torch for one night will make up for not welcoming it to the UK next year, but we all know the truth.

Learning Land's End would be the entry point despite the historic and iconic position of the port town will have hurt. So, the best thing to do is hold those heads high, stage the party to end all parties for the torch, and give the world a reason to watch Dover in the build up to the Olympics.

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Reinden Woods, Hawkinge
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Writer wrong over Turner

I WAS most sad to read the blinkered opinion of your reader from Birchington (Letters, May 15) about the new Turner Contemporary, especially in view of the short time it has been open to the public.

I have yet to meet anyone who anything but praise for the venture, and the numbers who have visited since the opening is an indication of the amount of interest it has generated to date.

It may not yet be bursting at the seams like some of the big London galleries, but the writer seemed to have written it off already without looking at the bigger picture.

As he is probably aware there is no charge to enter and if we didn't look to the future and embrace new developments, we would still be very much in the dark ages.

We have nothing else of this calibre in the area at present and it can only encourage visitors, which in turn will help generate additional

income for local businesses.

Your reader is obviously not aware of the saying 'that a mind is like a paracut - it works best when it is open'!

So he should be prepared to give some support instead of merely inane criticism.

I personally wish the Turner every success and look forward eagerly to the future, especially if local artists are also able to exhibit alongside some of the masters.

JA Deakin, Littlebourne

Security's not up to scratch

BEVERLI Rhodes (KoS, May 15), hit a number of security points on the head.

The simple fact that Justice Hallett would seem blind to reality along with ignoring testimonies from many shows how the system fails us, not forgetting the fact that she is not medically qualified to.

Time does not reduce the death toll.

Maybe she removed the odd red tape in words, but that just plays games with reality. Especially when most recognise our services look after

themselves before the public, irrespective what's claimed

Fact is, having studied terrorism and deployed in international security, I find our general security in the UK a farce. We have a Security Industry Authority format not fit for purpose and a police system that makes criminals of the innocent, while judges let hundreds walk free.

We also have one of the slowest judicial systems in the western world, taking years to conclude what is obvious to millions; 7/7 is but one example of such folly, let alone other such actions. One is safer being a terrorist today than one is a law-abiding citizen.

Our airport security and ports are jokes in real terms.

The questions as to why the 7/7 terrorists succeeded has still not been answered, just as the Hutton enquiry was an obvious sham. Or the Stockwell killing a whitewash.

The list grows longer while governments use overseas wars to spin and misdirect the public. It's time to call on commonsense and reality before America dictates global policy for all - its new goal today.

Derek R Packham, by email

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being a councillor who was well respected across the political divide. She did work hard for the people of Milton Regis.

One aspect of having a Conservative-controlled council is that Sittingbourne traffic chaos will not improve, as the Conservatives have absolutely no idea to organise traffic systems, so anyone who needs to drive in Sittingbourne must prepare to spend a great deal of time stuck in traffic. The public transport will only get worse.

Sheikh Mihand (aka Jackie Davidson)
Official Monster Raving Loony Party Candidate for Milton Regis, Sittingbourne

Be that 'one in a million'

I'D LIKE to thank the people of Kent for the generosity they showed during Red Cross Week (1-8 May) this year.

All over the country people volunteered to fundraise by shaking collection buckets, taking on sponsored challenges or holding fun events - all in the hope of raising £1 million for British Red Cross.

Everyone who fundraised or donated is truly 'one in a million', and has contributed to the charity's lifesaving work, both overseas and in the local community.

I have supported the fantastic work of British Red Cross for more than five years now, and have witnessed both international and domestic projects first hand.

In Angola I saw how the international tracing and message service helps to reunite loved ones separated by conflict or disaster.

Here in the UK, I've worked with the organisation to encourage young people to learn first aid skills, and to fundraise through the Dance for Life competition. I've seen the impact the Red Cross can have on people in crisis wherever and whenever they are, which is why I continue to support them.

This year the British Red Cross is aiming to raise more funds than ever before and reach a total of £1 million. It's not too late to donate - you can still contribute at www.redcross.org.uk/redcrossweek.

Please be 'one in a million' and give what you can to the British Red Cross.

Konnie Huq,
broadcaster and British Red Cross supporter

Traffic chaos round corner

THANKS to the 42 people in Milton Regis who were kind enough to vote for me.

I congratulate both the winning candidates, Adam Tolhurst and Tony Winckless and hope they do well.

I commiserate with Elvie Lowe who lost her seat despite

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
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Sadly this 6pc one-year savings-bond offer really is too good to be true...

QI received a phone call from First Initial Asset Management, offering me a one-year savings bond paying 6pc. The caller then sent details showing the bond would be issued by Standard Chartered, and payment was to be made by me to an account in Hong Kong. The account could be anyone's but the details show the money is protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. To me, the deal seems almost OK, but my wife is not at all happy.

AIf you were thinking of parting with the £5,000 shown on the investment documents you sent to me, then you owe your wife a big thank-you for persuading you to think twice. There are no two ways about it – this is a scam! For a start, according to Companies House there is no such British company as First Initial Asset Management. And there is no such company on the register of the watchdog Financial Services Authority, which means it is not protected by the compensation scheme. Its newspaper shows an address in Shoreditch, on the northern fringes of the City of London. I carried out a full investigation and can confirm it is definitely a bar and not an investment business. If more evidence is needed, take a look at the company's website at <http://firstinitialassetmanagement.com/>. Click through to 'privacy policy' and you will see that the firm gives an address in Cambridge. Yet according to Royal Mail, the postcode shown does not exist. The same website page gives the firm's phone number as 0845 302 5758. This number was used not long ago by a London firm of stockbrokers called Chapman Fischer. The brokers were unlicensed and operating illegally, and the FSA issued a public warning against them last September. On top of all this, why would a huge international bank like Standard Chartered need to offer twice the going rate of interest on its bonds? The answer is that it does not offer 6pc interest, and there are no such bonds. This is a fraud.

QMy daughter suffers from a mental illness, and recently I came across a cheque to her from Npower which she has not cashed. It is dated September, 2008, and is for £40. I have tried to find where to apply for this to be re-issued, but have drawn a complete blank.

ANpower supplies about 8pc of all the electricity used in Britain – but it is owned by a German company called RWE, which might explain why you have had trouble finding the right people to deal with your daughter's out-of-date cheque. Without knowing why Npower sent your daughter £40, I can't be sure either, which is the correct office to approach for a new cheque. But the best starting point is the company secretary. Write to him at Npower, Windmill Hill

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon SN5 6PB. Explain the problem and send a photocopy of the cheque. Do not send the original cheque – if it falls down the back of someone's desk, you will never be able to prove your daughter is owed a penny!

QOur property deeds are in the names of my wife and myself. We have heard that it might be advantageous to alter the deeds to include our three daughters, to reduce inheritance tax when we die.

AIf one tax does not get you, then another one might! Unless your daughters live in the house, they cannot claim it as their tax-exempt residence. So, they might sidestep inheritance tax, only to be hit by capital gains tax when they sell the property. Whether one tax bill might be less than the other depends on the arithmetic, so you should see a local solicitor who can give you a tailor-made calculation. Ask for advice too about what could happen if one daughter dies or is divorced. Would her sisters get her share, or her family? You could end up sharing ownership of your home with your grandchildren or even with a former son-in-law.

QI have made a will leaving the residue of my estate to be divided between two nieces. The estate is below the inheritance tax starting point, but will they have to pay any other tax?

AThere is no income tax, capital gains tax, or any other tax due on your assets when you die – only inheritance tax. If your estate is under the starting point – currently £325,000 – then no tax is due. After debts, funeral expenses and specific bequests, the residue of your estate will all pass to your nieces.

QI inherited my mother's property and have decided to rent it out rather than sell it. I am hoping for a rental income of about £600 a month. I am a housewife and do not work. Will I have to pay tax on the rents?

AIf you have no other taxable income such as earnings, pensions, or savings interest, then you will escape income tax. Your rents will bring in £7,200 a year, which is just below the £7,475 starting point for income tax.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Requests for payday loans jump by 58pc



CASH IN HAND: Yet some payday loans can carry interest rates of up to 2,000pc

THE level of demand for payday loans has shot up in the last month.

Experts have explained the rise in part by the run of bank holidays, including the royal wedding, alongside the rising cost of living.

The number of loans requested through Moneysupermarket.com increased by 58pc in early May, compared to early April.

Experts have warned people to be completely aware of terms and conditions before applying for such loans, which can have their place but can also create significant debt problems.

Payday loans are a form of short-term borrowing aimed at struggling consumers who need to bridge the gap until their next payday. The amounts offered to consumers by payday loan companies usually range from £100 to £300, but this amount can go up to £1,000 in some cases.

If an application is successful, mon-

By Ed Foss
MyMoney 24 writer

ey can be transferred into the borrower's account on the same day, making them extremely attractive to those that need a quick cash injection.

Due to their short-term nature, pay day loans carry extremely high interest rates, some as much as 2,000pc when converted to an annual percentage rate (APR).

These rates vary enormously, but typically, customers borrowing £100 will have to pay back around £125 and the term of the loan is usually set at 31 days – a £300 loan is likely to cost them around £375.

Tim Moss, head of loans and debt at Moneysupermarket, said: "It's no surprise to see the demand for payday loans rise so sharply in the current climate, and particularly around bank holiday periods when people

have been spending more.

These products act as a barometer, giving a unique insight into the state of the nation's finances, and as people continue to feel the pinch, we can expect to see the popularity of these products continue to increase.

"When you convert the interest rate of a pay day loan to an APR, the costs involved can appear exorbitant, however, because of their short-term nature expressing the rate as an APR can be misleading.

"For consumers who need money quickly, it can often be cheaper to borrow using a payday loan than exceeding their overdraft limit without authorisation from their provider.

"However, the use of payday loans comes with a huge caveat. There is a real danger that customers could fall into a spiral of debt where they have to take out a loan each month just to make ends meet."

Payment protection complaints hit 100,000

MORE than a million inquiries were made to the Financial Ombudsman Service in the space of a year.

The service has published its annual review of personal finance disputes and revealed it has to handle around 4,000 inquiries each working day.

Around 200,000 of these end up with disputes dealt with by the service – up more than a quarter on the previous year.

Payment protection insurance complaints have played a huge part

in the figures, as expected.

More than half of new cases, a total of 104,597, were about PPI – the highest number ever received in a year about a single financial product.

The service is an independent organisation that settles disputes between consumers and financial companies.

Natalie Ceeney, chief executive and chief ombudsman, said: "This year has been the busiest in our 10-year history – with over 200,000

disputes referred to us and a million frontline inquiries. This reflects the increased confidence of an ever-more diverse range of consumers getting in touch about a wider range of problems and issues.

"Aside from PPI cases, over the year we've seen encouraging signs of improvements in the way that some businesses are handling complaints – and it's good to see that the number of disputes about some other financial products has now started to fall."

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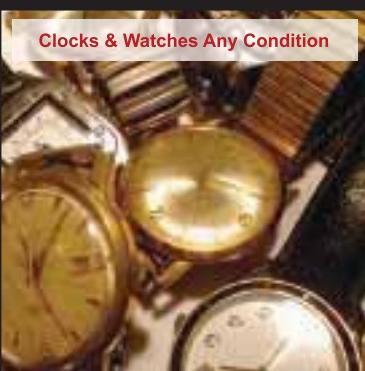


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If you cannot make the above dates Clive will also be appearing at the following locations during June:

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For precise details of the above dates and venues please call Phil on 07836 719895 or check online at: www.freeantiquesvaluations.com



Clive Attrell has a well-established and very successful antiques warehouse on the High Street in Hastings Old Town and you may recognise him from Dickinson's Real Deal, on which he was an appraiser for over two years, and numerous other television productions.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

MAYOR of London Boris Johnson has championed entrepreneurship by launching a series of Business Bootcamps. Mr Johnson hopes 1,000 youngsters will benefit from the scheme, which will see 27 workshops run across a range of sectors including digital and mobile technology, fashion and bio-tech industries. The scheme has been supported by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Simon Robinson Business Editor
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KEY PARTNERS



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Think tank's call to tax the big boys of grocery shopping

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

MAJOR supermarkets should be taxed to subsidise traditional high street shops, according to an influential think tank.

Tax recouped from out-of-town stores should then be used to reduce business rates on small retailers in a bid to bring a greater degree of balance to the UK economy.

The controversial plan to give councils new tax-raising powers is being proposed by the ResPublica think tank whose founder and director, Philip Blond, has close links to Prime Minister David Cameron.

The report – Right to Retail: Can Localism Save Britain's Small Retailers? – argues that Government must do more to rebalance the retail economy away from the "big four" supermarkets, which control nearly 80 per cent of the country's £150bn grocery market.

"Britain every year is less and less a nation of shopkeepers – assets and ownership are concentrating, finance has become the preserve of the City of London and high streets have converged as though by centralised design.

"The UK's 8,151 supermarket outlets today account for 97 per cent of total grocery sales, and 76 per cent of groceries are sold by just the four biggest retailers," the report says

"When we talk about rebalancing the economy, what we are really talking about is shifting back the focus of ownership and economic control to the communities."

Blond, whose ideas have influenced the prime minister's vision of the Big Society, said: "For too long government has viewed big as beautiful when it comes to retail competition.

"That position is unsustainable and we need radical thinking to bring about true competition.

"The number of traditional grocery stores has been declining over many years.

"In 1950 there were around 90,000 butchers and greengrocers. By 2000, this figure had plummeted to fewer than 20,000."

Levies on large retailers are already being discussed in Scotland where the plan has been proposed by the government.

Sainsbury's reaction was to warn that the tax would slow down growth in the country, where the supermarket chain has plans to expand.

Blond added: "The rise of the vast supermarkets with the infrastructure needed to sustain them, a bias in the planning system and their enormous purchasing power has crowded out competition.

"We now have a situation where it is unimaginable that a small family owned shop could grow into a retailing powerhouse such as Tesco or Sainsbury's."



TAX: The report argues that more of a balance is needed against the power of the 'big four' supermarkets which dominate our food shopping

FINANCE

Harbour's profits are in ship shape

DOVER Harbour Board has seemingly sailed through the recession, posting increased profits for 2010.

The company's operating profit was up £100,000 on 2009, standing at £11.9 million. Turnover was down slightly at £57.2 million, from £58.5 million, but the firm managed to cut costs by three per cent. Passenger numbers rose by 0.8 per cent.

DHB chief executive Bob Goldfield said: "We have achieved a very good set of results against a backdrop of extremely challenging economic conditions and within the constraints imposed by our current Trust Port status.

"This not only illustrates that the port is a strong and robust business, but that the time is right for us to build on that reputation and success by further growing the business and providing the world class facility that present and future users and stakeholders deserve."

During 2010 DHB attained a number of awards and accreditations, while the number of road collisions in the port halved.



ABOVE PAR: Tiger Woods in full swing

TRAINING

Open offer to all hospitality firms

LEISURE, travel and tourism businesses are being urged to swing into action ready to greet thousands of golfing enthusiasts heading to east Kent for The Open Championship in July.

Visit Kent, the county's tourism promoters, is organising a series of customer service training courses specifically tailored for those entertaining or providing services or accommodation during the tournament, which will feature the world's top players such as Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy.

The courses are being held in Dover on Tuesday June 14, in Margate on Wednesday 15, and in Canterbury on Thursday 16.

Visit Kent's Cheryl Parker said: "The courses will focus on all aspects of delivering exceptional customer service and tackle issues such as accessibility, working with older people and building long term relationships across a business to encourage repeat bookings and visits."

The Open is being held at Royal St George's Golf Club, Sandwich, in July.

EMPLOYMENT

Supermarket sets sights on St George

WAITROSE has announced plans for its first shop in Canterbury, a move which is set to create up to 180 new jobs.

The retailer will open a 25,000 sq ft food store and 230 customer car park spaces in St George's Place.

Whilst still subject to receiving change of use planning permission, Waitrose is hoping to welcome its very first customers in Canterbury through its doors by the end of this year.

The site, originally a Safeway supermarket, is currently anchored by an Aldi supermarket which, along with Bugsy's Ice 'n' Bowl, is closing down.

Waitrose director of development Nigel Keen said: "This is a really exciting opportunity for our business as the St George's Place site provides us with the perfect platform for us to bring substantial benefits to the area, including a significant number of new jobs, a wider choice of quality shopping facilities and services together with opportunities for local food and drink producers.

Waitrose has 11 stores in Kent and is set to open one in Sidcup later this year.

COMMENT

UK taxpayers will not have to contribute to any Euro bailouts after 2013, it has been revealed.

The agreement with other EU nations could save the UK billions of pounds – allowing Government to pump this cash into our under-funded frontline services.

The announcement came just days after Chancellor George Osborne made his position clear on a potential second bailout of Greece: he wanted no part in it.

And you can understand why. The UK has already given £7 billion to prop up the Irish Republic's economy, £1.2 billion through the International Monetary Fund to rescue Greece last year, and it will now hand £4.3 billion to Portugal.

The collapse of the single currency would undoubtedly harm the UK economy, but greater harm is being caused by throwing billions of pounds each year – that we don't have and can't afford – to failing countries.

We have enough issues of our own right now and should focus on ensuring we recover from the recession before we look to help our European neighbours.

So congratulations go to Mr Osborne – a Government minister who has put British interests first.

Now it is vital he sticks to his position and focuses on UK job-creation and growth.

Simon Robinson Business Editor

simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

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“**99**

Congratulations go to George Osborne – a Government minister who has put British interests first



Ferry operator is riding the crest of a wave after merger

WITH the merger of Norfolkline and DFDS Seaways, a major new player entered the competitive market of cross-Channel ferries.

The latest figures show the Danish-owned company has increased its market share for a sixth consecutive year in 2010 and cemented its position as the No2 car-ferry-operator in Dover with a 30 per cent market share, behind P&O.

Figures from IRN (Ferrystats) reveal that during 2010 DFDS Seaways carried more than 850,000 cars between Dover and Dunkirk – more than a ten-fold increase on the 81,000 cars carried in 2003.

DFDS is northern Europe's largest integrated shipping and logistics company.

Its Seaways arm operates a network of 30 routes with 60 freight and passenger ships, while DFDS Logistics provides freight solutions in Europe with trailers, containers and rail.

In the UK, the company operates three passenger service routes – Dover to Dunkirk, Newcastle to Amsterdam and Harwich to Esbjerg.

DFDS has 5,000 employees in 20 countries, and revenue is set to reach DKK 12 billion in 2011 (£1.41 billion).

The company was founded in 1866, is headquartered in Copenhagen and listed on NASDAQ OMX Copenhagen. DFDS is an abbreviation of Det Forenede Dampskibs-Selskab – literally The United Steamship Company.

A formal statement on the merger was issued recently by Niels Smedegaard, chief executive.

He said: "The integration of Norfolkline is progressing faster and better than expected. The results for 2010 and expectations for 2011 show that the acquisition clearly created value. At the end of this year we expect that the synergies [income derived from

The BIG Interview

Reporter **Nick Ames** talks to DFDS Seaways passenger director Chris Newey, who says the company's merger with Norfolkline last year has allowed it to be more competitive and offer more to cross-Channel passengers looking to get to and from the Continent



mergers] will reach about 180 million kroner (£21.1 million) on an annual basis. We have also created value for our shareholders by selling or closing loss-making routes."

The Dover-Dunkirk ferry-operator began its service as Norfolkline and merged with DFDS to become DFDS Seaways in July 2010, after approval from the European Court the previous month.

Chris Newey is the company's passenger director, based in Dover. He joined the company in August 2004.

Before the DFDS deal the company was owned by another Danish concern, Maersk, which also had interests in freight-container-shipping and oil exploration.

"I feel the merger has meant more of a focus is now on ferry shipping," said Newey.

"Because DFDS has a great deal of experience in transporting vehicles and people over short distances – it also operates ferry services in the Baltic – our operations have received more of a singular focus from the company.

"We are in a hugely competitive market in the way that airlines, for instance, are not. There may be many aircraft flying from one particular airport, but they are not all heading for the same place and vying for the same market share."

"From Dover all ferry traffic is heading for the Continent, whether it is Calais or Dunkirk."

"We feel we can offer passengers a different perspective on travel from other companies. Learning from the experience DFDS has – and what we learnt as Norfolkline – we have bought in something for every traveller."

"Dining, for instance – each ship has three options. There is fast food – burgers, pizzas and the like on offer – along with a self-service buffet and a tablecloth experience with full-service bistro."

"So there is something for families with children, something for people on a short break and something that appeals to business people or couples on holiday. Next month we are introducing Costa Coffee, so that will be another option available."

Being part of a larger company has also allowed DFDS to be more competitive in its outlay for necessary services, according to Newey.

"Where we need new systems for our ships we can pool the costs with our other routes – the cost of development can be spread over the three lines which run from the UK."

The company runs three vessels from Dover on the Dunkirk run, which takes two hours to complete. They are the 40,000-tonne ships Dunkirk Seaways, Delft Seaways and Dover Seaways. Each can carry up to 1,000 passengers and 300 vehicles.

"The operations of the ferries is vital to the economy here in Dover and the rest of east Kent," said Newey.

"I view competition as a good thing as well. It keeps us on our toes and we need to ensure that we continually re-



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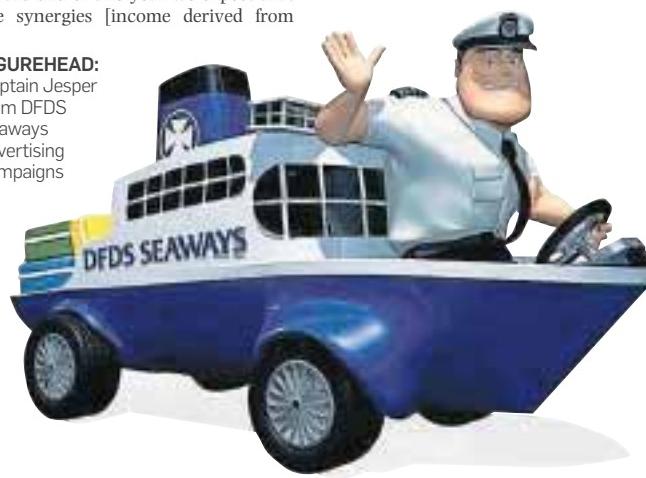
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Dover-Dunkirk

ONBOARD, DFDS Seaways offers a variety of food outlets to suit all tastes and budgets and has a dedicated children's play area – with ball ponds and climbing frames for families travelling with small children.

Ferry crossings from Dover to Dunkirk are designed for people travelling with their own vehicles, which means no foot passengers but plenty of space onboard for sitting and relaxing.

Fares for journeys between Dover and Dunkirk start from £25 each way for a car and up to four passengers. For those who are planning something extra-special, passengers can also choose to upgrade to the VIP lounge, which costs from £12 extra per person each way.

view all the options available to us.

"A significant proportion of our traffic is inbound into the UK and the position of Dunkirk is an advantage when it comes to taking in vehicles from Germany, Belgium and Holland as well as further afield. It is more convenient for operators from eastern and central Europe – places such as Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

"I don't think it is possible to guarantee anything in business, but it is true that we are now established as one of the major operators in the cross-Channel market, and while that continues I am sure the company will continue to invest in our operations and enable it to grow."



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: Chris Newey says the choice DFDS Seaways offers its

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TRAVEL

Canadian stop for Saga ship

SAGA is adding a new destination for its cruise ships – Pictou in Nova Scotia, Canada.

The Saga Pearl II is set to visit the town in September 2012 and staff from the holiday company are planning a site visit and talks later this year.

The Sandgate-based tour operators said sales for the north Atlantic cruise, which includes the town are likely to be strong. The move by the prestigious Kent business has been warmly welcomed by officials in Canada.

Pictou County Development Agency boss Katy MacDonald said: "The cruise business in Nova Scotia is growing year after year, and we are excited that such a well-known line has added the Port of Pictou to their visitor list."

"The Committee has been working diligently over the last five years in partnership with Atlantic Canada Cruise Association to attract ships to smaller ports in soliciting new business and to seek business from existing cruise companies that have Atlantic Canada on their itineraries."

PARTNERSHIP

FA and insurer in sponsor deal

KENT FA has made a major summer signing – bringing in Tokio Marine Europe as their principal sponsors.

The non-profit organisation, responsible for promoting grassroots football across the county, agreed terms with the commercial insurance company earlier this month.

Kent FA chief executive Paul Dolan said: "This deal illustrates the company's commitment to supporting the development of grassroots football in the county and the financial support from the partnership will allow us to continue to lead the way in providing football opportunities for everyone."

Tokio Marine insures a wide range of football related clients, from grassroots players up to Premiership Clubs.

The firm's Ian Monahan said: "We are proud to be invited to work with and sponsor the Kent FA. Supporting and developing football at all levels is something the company is passionate about."

INVESTMENT

Radar project underway

WORK has begun on building a multi-million pound radar system at Manston Airport.

The new primary and secondary radar system will play a large part of the freight and passenger airport's future and is designed to serve the projected growth of the site during the next 15 to 20 years.

The state-of-the-art devices have been funded by airport owners Infratil and offshore wind farm operators.

Manston chief executive Charles Buchanan said: "This major investment demonstrates our owner's commitment to the future of the airport.

"Through this investment the airport is able to ensure the continued safe movement of planes in and out of the airport and the operation of the two nationally important wind farms by London Array and Vattenfall, which will deliver 1.3 gigawatts of renewable energy, enough electricity for approximately one million households."

The new system is expected to be ready by 2012.

Interest rate rise casts a dark economic cloud

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

PLANS to raise interest rates could lead to a return to the economic dark days of the 1980s, according to a leading Labour politician.

Paul Clark, who was MP for Gillingham and Rainham from 1997 to 2010, issued his stark warning after experts stated an interest rate rise to halt a growth in inflation is imminent.

The Bank of England governor Mervyn King said families should prepare for a rise, ending two years of historic lows.

Mr King suggested the rise in inflation – which the Bank said could hit five per cent in the final months of 2011 – has meant the possibility of an increase.

He said: "Bank rates cannot stay at this level indefinitely, and at some point it will return to more normal levels."

Mr Clark, Labour spokesman for Kent, said: "Mervyn King's words and the latest predictions of the Bank of England will strike fear at the very heart of families and businesses alike throughout Kent."

"The threat of interest rates being raised will remind businessmen and women of the last Tory government and double digit rates in the 80s and 90s, that crippled British business, forcing many to go to the wall and many thousands of people made redundant."

Higher borrowing costs could now be a major problem for homeowners, many of whom felt that – at least in the short term – monthly mortgage



WARNING: Former Labour MP Paul Clark foresees tough times

repayments would stay low.

Mr Clark said: "Higher interest rates will do nothing to help reassure businesses within Kent that the future is rosy."

"Already confidence has been undermined by the downgrading of forecast growth for 2011, by the Government's Office for Budget Responsibility four times in 12 months – from 2.6 per cent in June, 2010, to 2.3 per cent after George Osborne's emergency budget; then to 2.1 per cent after the coalition's spending review; and to 1.7 per cent after this year's budget."

"Now the governor of the Bank of England is downgrading it still further at about 1.5 per cent in six months."

"Cutting too deep and too fast, as this government is doing, is a vicious circle. The slower growth, higher unemployment and higher inflation that Mr Osborne's policies have delivered mean the Government will now have to borrow £46

billion more than they were planning a few months ago.

"In contrast, a year ago, Labour's plans to support the recovery saw the economy start to grow strongly, unemployment fall and borrowing come in over £21bn lower than forecast.

"But our plan was based on restoring strong, sustainable growth, getting people back into work, and then beginning the difficult task of cutting spending and raising taxes where necessary."

"The commitment to halve the deficit in four years was the same commitment agreed to by all G20 countries."

A rate rise to one per cent would increase monthly repayments on an average £150,000 variable rate mortgage by £43 a month or £516 a year.

On current estimates across the UK two-thirds of homeowners have a variable rate mortgage, meaning nearly eight million households would pay more.

The warning comes as household gas bills are set to jump by an average of £100 and electricity bills by £50 in the next nine months – with no respite for a further two years.

At present, the average gas bill is £666 a year and the average electricity bill is £473.

In its report, the Bank also downgraded its economic growth forecasts for this year from around two per cent to 1.75 per cent, and said the squeeze on living standards would last longer than initially thought.

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Boris gives young entrepreneurs a boost with business bootcamps

BUDDING entrepreneurs are being urged to sign up for a series of tailor-made Business Bootcamps.

The multi-sector start-up scheme was launched by Mayor of London Boris Johnson.

It is hoped the capital-based initiative will give 1,000 young business hopefuls the opportunity to develop the key skills they will need to build successful companies.

Mr Johnson said: "London is brimming with entrepreneurial spirit across a huge range of sectors; from fashion to finance, science to technology, hospitality and the arts.

"New enterprising start-ups are going to be ever more important to our city's prosperity and as we continue to creep out of recession we must do all we can to support those with the brightest ideas. These brilliant bootcamps will help budding entrepreneurs to get the inside track from the experts on how to start and grow successful, thriving companies."

Specialist bootcamps will be offered in fields including digital and mobile technology, fashion, hospitality, entertainment, creative and bio-tech industries.

The scheme has been funded by £275,000 from the Royal Bank of Scotland and £135,000 from the EU's Interreg pot.

RBS' business and commercial banking chief executive Ian Cowie said: "Helping new businesses succeed is crucial to economic recovery and London start-ups will play a huge role in this."

"We're helping more businesses get off the ground than any other bank and of the 2,000 new business start-ups we support across Britain each week, one in four are based in London. We're investing in this programme to help more new businesses to get access to quality advice early on."

For more information visit www.thebusiness-bootcamp.org.



New depot helping firm move forward in these difficult times

By Simon Robinson

simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

WORK continues to gather pace at family-owned haulage company Alan Firmin's new bespoke transport and distribution depot.

The established transport, distribution and warehousing company began construction work on their new transport development at Kemsley Business Park, Sittingbourne, in February.

The project includes extensive trailer parking facilities, offices, warehouse, covered loading area and dedicated trailer servicing bay.

The depot is expected to be finished by November this year, at which time the company will move from its current Snodland base.

The total cost of the build – including land, design, brick-work and custom-fit – represents a £5 million investment.

Director Paul Denyer said the Sittingbourne headquarters would lead to growth.

"It's a springboard for us," he said. "We're hoping the new depot will bring in more business, and it has to as the development needs to pay for itself."

"There will be more work which will lead to new employment opportunities."

Denyer said the new six-acre Sittingbourne site was chosen for a number of reasons.

He said: "The plot gives us



66%

These are very exciting times for us in what is an uncertain economy

PAUL DENYER

THE FUTURE: The depot is expected to be complete in November

a bigger lorry park. At the moment our Snodland site is mainly warehouse and we have to rent additional lorry space.

"The Sittingbourne relocation also brings us nearer to our main client base, improving efficiencies."

Denyer added that the firm was keen for the November deadline to come.

"These are very exciting times for us in what is a diffi-

cult and uncertain economy," he said.

"Very few businesses are doing what we're doing and very few will ever have the opportunity to do so."

Formed in 1928, Alan Firmin has grown to a company with total assets of more than £50m and a turnover of £16m.

The company employs more than 100 members of staff and has a fleet of more than 180 vehicles, trailers and tractors.

Performance index puts our hauliers at risk of bankruptcy as fuel prices continue rising

SMALL to medium hauliers remain at significant risk of bankruptcy, according to new research.

The bleak prediction was made by Bibby Financial Services, which found that more than half of the UK logistics firms had to cut costs during the first quarter after a slow start to the year.

Bibby's chief executive Edward Rimmer said small firms across the sector would find it most difficult to keep their heads above water, despite growth in March.

"The SMEs will be in the greatest danger, as the cost of fuel bites deeper into profits of business managers and owners."

Established Kent-based firm Derek



CASUALTY: Derek Linch Haulage had to close recently due to rising fuel prices

casualties of Q1, closing its doors after more than 34 years in business.

The family-owned company, which traded out of Romney Marsh, ran 20 trucks and employed 31 members of staff, who all lost their jobs.

Director Derek Linch said in March the loss of a big client and the rising price of fuel had forced his hand.

"We are closing the doors at 5pm on March 14," he said. "This is a very sad thing to have to do."

The Bibby index revealed that of the logistics firms tracked, 59 per cent said they had cut costs ahead of further predicted price pressures.

Nearly half of respondents said they were in a worse position than they were a year ago.

Rimmer said all companies in the industry had to remain vigilant.

"It is imperative that firms of all sizes have funding in place to secure their business performance or even invest in opportunities for growth."



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Armed Forces called up for web service

EX-SERVICEMEN and women are being recruited by BT to help deliver super-fast broadband across the UK.

The communications giant plans to take on 200 former Army, Navy and RAF personnel – including about 25 in Kent – as part of its Openreach business network scheme.

They will form part of a mobile engineering workforce which will help to deploy super-fast broadband to two-thirds of all UK premises by the end of 2015.

Openreach chief executive Olivia Garfield said: "It's fantastic we've been able to recruit so many ex-armed services personnel."

"These people have served their country well and so deserve the chance of full-time employment with a generous reward package. They are highly-skilled, motivated and disciplined and have experience of complex engineering tasks in challenging environments."

"Our fast-track recruitment programme should see the majority of them join us by the end of May and, given their experience, we will be able to train them up quickly and get them straight out where we need them."

BT has been working on the broadband scheme with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), which provides career guidance, training, and employment support to those leaving the Armed Forces.

The CTP is an arrangement between the Ministry of Defence and the global career management firm Right Management.

Lt Cdr Mark Walker from the MoD's training, education, skills and resettlement team said: "We are delighted Openreach has recognised the talent, skills and versatility of our service leavers, especially targeting them for recruitment."

"We strongly welcome this initiative and its promise of rewarding employment and career opportunities for many Armed Forces personnel."

CTP managing director David Duffy added: "We have had an amazing success rate with this project and have received tremendous feedback about the high calibre of the service leavers who have applied for the roles on offer."

"This reflects the highly sought-after skill sets, ability and attitude of those leaving the Armed Forces."

Practical skills in the spotlight for VQ Day

By Steve Knight

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VOCATIONAL learning will be celebrated in Kent next month with the arrival of the fourth annual VQ Day.

Organised by the independent education foundation Edge, the national event aims to raise the status of practical learning and celebrate the achievements of those who study vocational subjects such as hairdressing, catering and construction.

Schools, colleges and other supporters across the county are expected to take part in VQ Day, on June 22.

Edge chief executive Peter Mitchell said: "We believe every young person should be given the opportunity to succeed with access to practical and vocational learning as well as academic study, and those who choose to do so should have their achievements celebrated."

"With the Government showing increasing support for vocational pathways, the tide is turning in our favour."

"Vocational qualifications have never been more important to the economy and the individual; they deliver the trained, talented employees businesses are crying out for and ensure young people have the skills needed to succeed in work and life."

Last March a Government-commissioned review of vocational training by education expert Professor Alison Wolf recognised Kent's training centres as "beacons of excellence" that ensure young people can access the specialist programmes they want.

There are currently stand-alone vocational centres in Dover and Thanet, with two in Swale and one due to open in Maidstone.

The rest are based in schools including Thamesview School in Gravesend, Herne Bay High School, the Towers School in Ashford, and Pent Valley in Folkestone.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said at the time: "I strongly believe that one size does not fit all when it comes to education, which is why Kent has championed and pioneered vocational education alongside the traditional academic subjects."

"There are more than 8,000 students in Kent benefiting from this trail-blazing programme, learning skills which employers in the county are crying out for."

A VQ is a recognised qualification at any level relating to a particular line of work or specific job role, with an emphasis on the assessment of practical skills and knowledge.

Examples include BTECs, City and Guilds and apprenticeships.

Edge chairman Lord Kenneth Baker said: "VQ Day offers a great opportunity for colleges, businesses and educationalists to come together and celebrate the achievements of vocational learners."

"Vocational qualifications offer unrivalled training and learning opportunities for students while helping to meet the needs of employers looking for specific skill-sets."

Visit www.vqday.org.uk for more details including information on how to get involved.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.



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New learning programme aims to change art perceptions at gallery

TURNER Contemporary has launched a new learning programme aiming to change the way teachers and children learn about the visual arts.

The scheme – called We Are Curious – aims to bring more than 5,000 schoolchildren to the Margate gallery between now and April next year.

It was launched at a special event attended by teachers, governors, higher and further education tutors, youth workers and other community leaders from across the county.

Turner Contemporary director Victoria Pomery said: "The gallery is an amazing resource, and learning is at the heart of what we do here at Turner Contemporary."

"Learning is important in a community where many young people have had negative experiences of education."

"I'm thrilled this event has brought together so many educational professionals from around Kent, and I believe the

combination of inspirational spaces, creative ideas and great art will foster civic pride, change attitudes and provide opportunities for young people to access culture."

The £17.5m Turner Contemporary gallery opened on April 16 and attracted more than 65,000 visitors in its first six weeks.

Visit www.turnercontemporary.org or call 01843 233000 for more information about learning and events.

Hair students battle it out in competition

MORE than 60 students showed off their styling skills in an attempt to be crowned MidKent College's hairdresser of the year.

The competition – sponsored by Goldwell hair products – was held across four weeks at the college's Maidstone campus, with Donna Marchant, Sarah Curtis and Leigh Micallef coming first, second and third respectively.

Lecturer and contest judge Helen Henderson said: "The students were given a loose theme to work with in each of the competition heats. These included 'red carpet', 'anything goes' and 'night on the town'."

"They worked extremely hard and the professionalism and creativity they demonstrated was outstanding."

The competition final was co-judged by Ms Henderson, assistant principal and former beautician Jill Edwards, personal tutor Wendy George and Goldwell representative Ken Sage.

It was open to all hair design students at the Maidstone campus, from level one to three.

Ms Henderson said: "We hoped those from our lower level courses would be motivated by the challenge, and I am proud to say all those who entered showed great imagination in their work and demonstrated that you can create inspiring designs whatever ability or level you are."

Goldwell donated a range of prizes for first, second and third place, with winning student Donna being sent on a colour course at the firm's training centre in Mayfair, London.

Mr Sage said: "The college should be so im-



WINNER: Donna Marchant scooped first prize

pressed with what the students have done. This entire competition has been fabulous."

MidKent College's full-time hair design courses lead to nationally recognised qualifications that either prepare students for work in the hairdressing industry or enable those who are already qualified as hairdressers to develop and enhance their skills.

A number of part-time and evening courses are also on offer in subjects including wedding hair and make-up, barbering and perms.

Visit www.midkent.ac.uk for more information.

Adult Learners' Week celebrates students' life-changing stories

A WEIGHTLIFTER and a female motorbike mechanic were among those recognised as part of Adult Learners' Week.

Ken Wildman, 55, from Folkestone, has hopes of becoming a national weightlifting coach and has returned to education after his dyslexia forced him to quit an Open University course.

Tina Eastwood, 33, from Herne Bay, left school with no qualifications but has since completed several courses and

has her sights set on becoming a motorbike MOT tester.

Both have received awards for their dedication to learning as part of Adult Learners' Week, which ended on Friday, May 20.

Further education minister John Hayes said: "I wholeheartedly congratulate all the individuals and organisations that have received an Adult Learners' Week Award."

"Their inspiring stories bring to light the power learning

has to transform the lives of people of all ages, encourage social mobility and build a better society."

Alan Tuckett, chief executive of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Learning, added: "The stories of our award winners once again illustrate the overwhelmingly positive impact learning has on people's lives. I hope adults across the country will be inspired to discover for themselves a whole new life."

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NIGHT SUPPORT WORKER

A position of night support worker has become available. For this position it will be necessary to have general experience in social care. The salary will be £13,505 per annum and the hours are 37.5 hours per week.

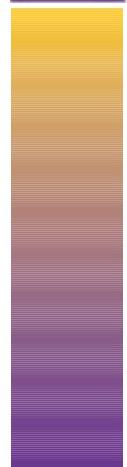
FLEXIBANK - CASUAL STAFF

Would you prefer to retain flexibility and be able to make choices that suit you and your private life, regarding time and location of work - then why not join our Flexibank? Hourly rates of pay: Waking Night Casual Worker £9.54, Sleep-in Night Casual Worker £28.73 per night. Senior Casual Worker £8.42 / Weekend rate: £8.93 - candidate must have at least 12 months experience of working within Social Care. Casual Care Worker £7.14 / Weekend rate: £7.65. no previous experience required.

Closing date for the above positions is 3.6.11. Interviews will be held on 17.6.11.

Please look at the website www.kentautistic.com for recruitment opportunities within the Trust.

For further information about these positions, and for an application pack, please contact Jeanette Grundy, Human Resources Manager on 01634 405168 or email humanresources@kentautistic.com



Care Workers

ROCHESTER, GILLINGHAM, STROOD,
WALDERSLADE, TWYDALL, LORDSWOOD

- Competitive rates of pay
- Flexible working hours
- Weekend and morning hours available
- Free training to HSC Level 2 Diploma
- 28 days' paid annual leave (pro rata)
- No previous experience necessary
- Good written and spoken English

London Care is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and children with disabilities living in their own homes.

For an application form contact the central recruitment team on 0208 795 6555 or e-mail: recruitment@londoncare.co.uk

London Care is an Equal Opportunities Employer

www.londoncare.co.uk

TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER

Required

42.5 hours per week – 8:00am
to 4:30pm Mon to Fri
£8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

Previous experience working in a small business on a financial computer software package. You must have a full Driving Licence to drive company vehicle and own transport due to remote location of office.

Applicants should ideally live in a 20 mile radius of Canterbury. Must have a good telephone manner and knowledge of computers to develop company website. Your duties will involve day to day operations of normal buying and selling procedures within a small business, accurate written & computer record keeping, daily record keeping and filing of engineers site attendance. Website development and other administration tasks are also required.

Written application with CV to Pauline Stirrups at pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk



Sales Consultant/Designer Required

We are looking for an experienced Sales Consultant specialising in Orangeries and Conservatories.

Laptop design knowledge is desirable and to be conversant with the latest planning and building regulations.

Area to be covered is Kent and South East London.

Excellent package for the right applicant.

Please apply to Mr Ron Twyman,
Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road,
Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP.
e-mail ron@piperwindows.co.uk
or call 01843 850500.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.



The Woodville Centre, Canterbury, Kent

Kent Autistic Trust is proud to announce that a new day vocational centre is about to open in Canterbury. The new centre will have facilities to support people with Autism Spectrum Condition with activities at the venue itself, and in the local community at colleges and clubs, shops and leisure facilities. The centre will also have facilities in the future for respite support.

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for a motivated and committed individual to help facilitate the opening and establishment of the service at the Woodville Centre. This position would be ideal for someone who has:

- experience in a learning disabilities setting, including management of a learning disabilities
- service, leading and supporting a team of staff, particularly if you have helped staff through a period of change, or when setting up a service. You must have NVQ level III in Health and Social Care or an equivalent qualification, and the willingness to work towards NVQ Level IV.

The salary will be £18,939 - £20,011 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications, and the hours 37.5 per week.

Closing date 3.6.11. Interviews will be held on 16th June 2011.

DEPUTY PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR

This position would suit a person who has sound experience of working with people with learning disabilities, and would like to embark on a new challenge by supporting the Programme Co-ordinator in setting up and managing the service at the Woodville Centre. You would need:

- An NVQ III in Health and Social Care or an equivalent qualification with proven experience in supporting people with learning disabilities, and in supporting other staff.

The salary will be £15,305 - £17,490 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications, and the hours 37.5 per week.

Closing date 3.6.11. Interviews will be held on 16th June 2011.

Applications welcome for consideration for future positions at Woodville. Please look at the website www.kentautistic.com for recruitment opportunities to the Trust.

FLEXIBANK - CASUAL STAFF

Would you prefer to retain flexibility and be able to make choices that suit you and your private life, regarding time and location of work - then why not join our Flexibank? Hourly rates of pay: Waking Night Casual Worker £9.54, Sleep-in Night Casual Worker £28.73 per night. Senior Casual Worker £8.42 / Weekend rate: £8.93 - candidate must have at least 12 months experience of working within Social Care. Casual Care Worker £7.14 / Weekend rate: £7.65. no previous experience required.

For further information about these positions, and for an application pack, please contact Jeanette Grundy, Human Resources Manager on 01634 405168 or email humanresources@kentautistic.com

Due to expansion we need 10 DRIVER SALES/REPS

for immediate start
No experience necessary. Full and ongoing support. Company vehicle provided. Management opportunities. Earn £500 + bonus weekly.

Call Mr Parker, 01732 354033
Between 8am-2pm

Small, busy office requires an accountant to be responsible for the following;

- Supervising a small team
- Reconciliation of company accounts
- Preparation of cash flow statement
- Month end accrual
- Monitoring of sales and purchase ledger

The successful candidate will pay attention to detail and accuracy and have the ability to work under pressure

Please send CV and Covering Letter to PO BOX 128 Applebarn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SS

Full time and part time cleaners/caretakers

required to carry out internal cleaning to the public areas of blocks of flats, inc sweeping and litterpicking outside. Other cleaning duties may be required. Must have a full clean driving licence and be over 21 due to insurance purposes you will be required to travel throughout Kent, including Margate, Dover, Gravesend, Tunbridge Wells and all surrounding areas.

Motivation is key to this job role.
For more information please contact 01303 248828

PA required

An opportunity has arisen for the position of personal assistant to the Kent County Agricultural Society Board and the Showground Executive Manager.

Duties will include minute taking, diary management and the organisation of Society meetings and involvement with the Kent County Show and other Society organised events. The role also includes some general office duties.

The successful applicant will need to be discreet and well organised with experience of a similar role. An ability to work as part of a small busy team is essential and an interest in Agriculture, Horticulture and the Countryside would be advantageous.

This is a full time role and the successful applicant would be expected to work overtime as required and for the whole weekend of the annual Kent County Show in July.

Please apply in writing with a current CV to Jane Hamblay, Kent County Agricultural Society, County Showground, Detling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JF or e-mail jane@kentshowground.co.uk

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

Trainee Draughtsperson

We are a well established aluminium window, doors and curtain wall manufacturer and installer and we are looking for a trainee draughtsman to assist in the growth of our company. Must have some working knowledge of Autocad packages and a background in the Construction Industry.

Further education in the form of day release will be encouraged.

Please call for further information 01622 882345
STRICTLY NO AGENCIES



Catch22 is a national charity that works with young people facing tough situations; encouraging and guiding them through thick and thin. We work with over 37,000 young people in 150 neighbourhoods across the UK. By joining us you'll be helping to give young people a chance to get on in life.

Our Foundation Learning programmes work with young people aged 16-19, some presenting challenging behaviour, helping them to achieve relevant qualifications and progress into further education, training and employment. We're looking for people to work in the following areas: Folkestone, Maidstone, Canterbury, Sheerness and across Kent.

Course Leaders

£20,796-£25,689

Delivering the programme, you'll prepare schemes of work and lesson plans and provide guidance to those with additional learning needs. You'll maintain close working relationships with Connexions, employers and external organisations and provide supervision to Learning Support Assistants, volunteers and sessional staff. PTLLS qualification is essential and you must have or be willing to work towards PTLLS. Roles available in Folkestone, Maidstone, Canterbury and Sheerness.

Tutors (Sessional)

Up to £10.95 per hour

You'll lead the delivery of Foundation Learning training on a variety of qualifications, preparing schemes of work and lesson plans, and delivering training courses as and when required. Good standard of education and PTLLS qualification will be required. Roles available in Folkestone, Maidstone, Canterbury, Sheerness and across Kent.

Learning Support Assistants

Permanent (f/t & p/t)* - £17,561-£21,693 Sessional - Up to £9.24 per hour

Working with students in groups, as well as on a one-to-one basis, you'll support a variety of academic and practical activities. You will be expected to have a good level of education; training or teaching qualification would be an advantage. *Full and part-time permanent roles available in Folkestone (37 hrs), Maidstone (18 hrs) and Canterbury (18 hrs) with pro rata salary for part-time roles. Sessional roles available in Folkestone, Maidstone, Canterbury, Sheerness and across Kent.

Sessional staff will be working on a regular or 'as and when' required basis on Foundation Learning programmes and/or other similar short-term projects.

For further details about these posts and other vacancies, visit catch-22.org.uk

Closing date: 31 May 2011. Interviews: w/c 6 June 2011.
No agencies please.

If you're successful you'll have to consent to relevant checks by the Criminal Records Bureau and the young people you'll be working with will have a say in your appointment.

Equal and diverse, we see the potential in everyone.

catch-22.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1124127

**catch
22**
INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE
helping young
people out

Faversham Residential Home
Care Assistant Required For
Full Time To Work On Rota Basis
Subject To CRB Approval
For Further Information Please
Contact 01795 532629
Between 10am-4pm



**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHARITY
require
ENTHUSIASTIC FUND RAISERS/INSTORE
PROMOTION PEOPLE/COLLECTORS**
To work at venues in the Medway area. Full/part-time
including weekends. Start £6.50 p.h, plus bonus. Must drive.
Please call Neal - 01443 230087 or Sue on mobile - 07787 187015
Web: www.followyourdreams.org.uk

PORT REGIS
Elderly Care Broadstairs
Requires
CLEANING STAFF
30 hours per week. Alternative weekends
Call: 01843 602266

Part Time Maintenance Worker
required for small care home in Deal
Immediate start. Must have experience
2 days per week 8-4
For more information please phone
01304 372312 and speak to the
Manager or Deputy Manager

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

KOSMEDIA

Telephone: 01303 817040

Fax: 01303 817004

Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Project Manager

Ref: PRO01

37 hours per week
Maidstone

We are currently in the early stages of a £23 million development programme to upgrade our Maidstone Campus for which we are tendering for a Project Director on a consultancy basis. This is an in-house appointment to act as the project lead from 1st August 2011. The external project management team will report to you for the duration of the contract which is expected to conclude in March 2014. Interested parties will be required to propose the precise time required for successful delivery of the project, however it is anticipated that this will be in the region of 10 to 12 days a month subject to the needs of specific projects. You will be responsible for the successful delivery of a range of projects within the overall development programme including substantial reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing premises, potential estate acquisitions and disposals, decent and relocation.

The appointment process for the above role will be managed via our InTend portal. To set yourself up as a potential supplier you will need to register on the site. <https://intendhost.co.uk/fe> (please select business category 'W - Estates and Buildings').

Expressions of Interest will need to be made via that site by 10th June with tender bids in by 1st July.

Lecturer in Human Resources and Management Ref: P0422

Salary: £30,718 - £34,005 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
25.9 hours per week
Maidstone

MidKent College has a long history of successfully preparing candidates for the very demanding CIPD national examinations and the rigorous requirements of the CMI programmes. We are now looking for someone who is committed to excellence in teaching to join the team. The successful candidate will have extensive professional experience in HRM and be able to use that experience to enhance their credibility in the classroom. Ideally you will be a Chartered Member of the CIPD but candidates in the final stages of gaining chartered status will be considered

Lecturer in Business

Ref: P0490

Salary: £ 26,336 - £29,618 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week
Maidstone

A lecturer is required to teach on our successful one-year and two-year Business A-level courses. In addition the successful candidate may be required to teach some BTEC Business at level 3. We are looking for an experienced Lecturer who is committed to excellence and is able to undertake the responsibilities of a Course Tutor.

CLOSING DATE: 31 May 2011

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

RECRUITMENT SENSE

where service,
safety and savings
come as standard



teachers from only £155 +VAT

01622 623114

www.recruitmentsense.com



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

LEAD LEARNING SUPPORT PRACTITIONER

To lead a team of Learning Support Practitioners in a specific vocational or academic area.
SALARY SCALE: £13,188 - £15,583 FOR 35 HOURS, 38 WEEKS PER YEAR

LEARNING ZONE TEAM LEADER

To lead on the provision and promotion of learning resources and facilities within the College's open learning centre and resources library
SALARY SCALE: £19,659 - £23,040 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

MARKETING ASSISTANT.

To assist the College's operational marketing and public relations activities particularly promotion, e-marketing, social media, media relations and brand guardianship.
SALARY SCALE: £7,990 - £8,896 FOR 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK ALL YEAR

SKILLS PRACTITIONER - HAIR & BEAUTY

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students and undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies
SALARY SCALE: £9,933 - £11,738 FOR 27 HOURS PER WEEK, 37 WEEKS PER YEAR

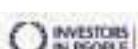
SKILLS PRACTITIONER - MOTOR VEHICLE

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students and undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies
SALARY SCALE: £8,567 - £10,123 FOR 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please call HR on (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: : Wednesday 25th May 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



Teachers Needed Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✓ Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- ✓ Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- ✓ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✓ Free use of resource centre
- ✓ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information
and to register with us, please call us free on:
0800 731 6871 or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

CAPITA

EDUCATION RESOURCING

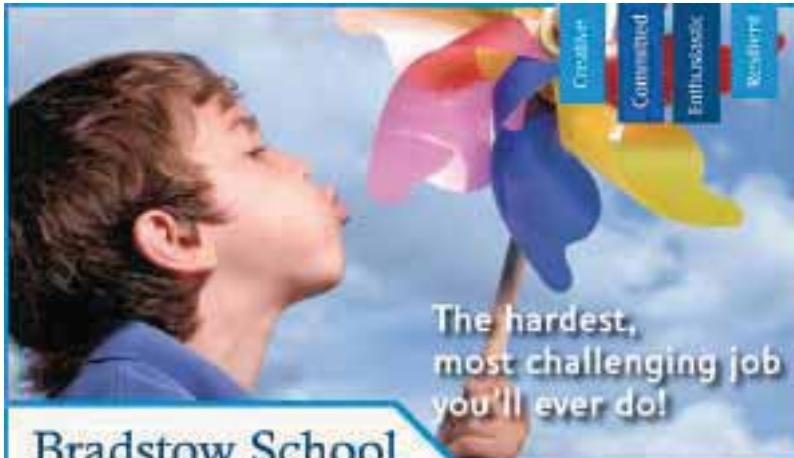
(Agy)

Committed to equal opportunities

To advertise in
this section
01303 817040

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County



Bradstow School

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

HOUSE MANAGER - CHILDCARE

£27,852 - £29,236 per annum - 41 hours per week, including split shifts and weekends, 'Term time only'

This role involves managing one of our childcare teams, who provide care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision. If required, for which extra payment would be made.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk Or you may call 01843 669727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 3rd June 2011.



www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk



Saint George's
Church of England School
Humanities College

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS

Tel: 01474 533082

Fax: 01474 533844

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided,
Humanities College,
11-18, Mixed, Wide Ability School

RECEPTIONIST

Full time (37 hours per week)

Term Time Only plus 5 days

Salary Kent Range 3 (pro rata equals £11,897 to £13,619 pa)

Due to the retirement of the current post holder, we are seeking an experienced Receptionist to join our Main Office Administration team. Applicants will need to have strong administrative, customer service and communication skills to work with our variety of stakeholders.

Saint George's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Please contact the school to request further details and an application form quoting ref:KOS1 (Email thomsonm@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk) or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 24 May 2011



JobsforKent.co.uk
A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Accountancy

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Finance Manager / Admin

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
ARCHANT) KOS MEDIA
3000@armi.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

BOOKKEEPER

Essex

Salary 23000-25000

To apply/more information:
01708 380 444
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Accounts Assistant

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
sdenny@outlook.property.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Assistant Group Financial Controller

Surrey

Salary 60000-65000

To apply/more information:
cspence@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Secretary / Administrator

Essex

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
0208 554 9511
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Experienced Admin Assistant

Essex

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
info@msenvironmental.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Office Admin Assistant

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
admin@torrianojun.camden.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Assistant Group Financial Controller

Surrey

Salary 55000-60000

To apply/more information:
cspence@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury

Salary 14k

To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: RecAug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Sales Administrator

North/Mid Kent

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
Centronic Ltd
GBroney@Centronic.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Archant KOS Media

Front of House Administrator

London

Salary 21375-23277

To apply/more information:
Pembury Group
Sonia@pemburygroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Administrator

South East Area

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:
Pembury Group
Sonia@pemburygroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sub-Contract Fencing Installers

South East Area

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:
Pembury Group
Sonia@pemburygroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Front of House Administrator

London

Salary 21375-23277

To apply/more information:
Pembury Group
Sonia@pemburygroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Office Manager

Sevenoaks

Salary circa 28,000 per annum

To apply/more information:
marketingrecruitment@cognitacschools.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Dental Receptionist

Essex

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
0208 598 9090 / 07985 628090
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Receptionist

Essex

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
0208 590 3234
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Registrar (Marketing & Admissions)

Essex

Salary circa 28,000 per annum

To apply/more information:
marketingrecruitment@cognitacschools.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Dental Assistant

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
0208 518 1022
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Care Job Opportunity

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
ARCHANT) KOS MEDIA
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Locum Workers

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
ARCHANT) KOS MEDIA
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

DENTAL NURSE

Essex

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
01708 473717
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nursery Nurse

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
020 8505 6565
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Family Support Worker

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:
raeheal.inns@altmore.newham.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Clinical Nurse Supervisor-Brixton

London

Salary 30000-36000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

IV Therapies Community Nurse - Kent

Kent

Salary 28000-30000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Nurse - Surrey

Surrey

Salary 25000-30000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Nurse - IV- Crawley

Sussex

Salary 23000-27000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Nurse - Maidstone

Kent

Salary 28000-29000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Nurse - Essex

Essex

Salary 28000-38000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Physiotherapist

Surrey

Salary 26000-31000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nurse Practitioner- Southend On Sea

Essex

Salary 34000-38000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Deputy Manager

Surrey

Salary 30000-32000

To apply/more information:
catkin@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Pediatric Nurse

London

Salary 19000-42000

To apply/more information:
adavies@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Oncology Nurse

London

Salary 21000-29000

To apply/more information:
spoton@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Clinical Nurse Manager

Surrey

Salary 35000-40000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Practice Nurse-London

London

Salary 34000-36000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Family Nurse- Essex

Essex

Salary 25000-28500

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

IV Therapies Community Nurse - Kent

Kent

Salary 28000-30000

To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

BRUNSWICK ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and repairs to areas of potholes and surface failure, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Brunswick Road, Ashford, on or after 23 May 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with the A28 for a distance of approximately 15 metres.

The alternative route is via Brunswick Road, Hilton Road and A28 Chart Road.

CHURCH ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway and footway improvement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Ashford, on or after 6 June 2011 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Queen Street and Norwood Street.

The alternative route is via A292 Elwick Road, Bank Street and Tufton Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Church Road between Norwood Street and Tufton Street, and the No Right Turn Order from Tufton Street into Church Road, will be suspended to allow access up to the point of closure.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

BREDLANDS LANE, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new waste water inspection chamber, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bredlands Lane, Sturry, from 28 May 2011 until 6 June 2011 or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Spires Academy.

The alternative route is via A28 Island Road, Staines Hill, Babs Oak Hill and Hoath Road.

BOLTS HILL, CHARTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new waste water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bolts Hill, Chartham, on or after 23 May 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of The Old Ford Yard.

The alternative route is via Bolts Hill, Shalmsford Street, Baker's Lane, Rattington Street, Station Road and Parish Road.

SWEETCHBRIDGE ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sweechbridge Road, Herne Bay, on or after 31 May 2011 for up to 6 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with May Street and the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via A299 Thanet Way, B2205 Margate Road and Reculver Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

HIGHCROSS ROAD, SOUTHFLEET - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Highcross Road, Northfleet between York Road and Thames Way.

The Order will become effective on 23rd May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Whitehill Road, Green Street Green Road and Sandbanks Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL UNIVERSITY WAY, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is being held on the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by Dartford Toll bound vehicular traffic on University Way, Dartford from the roundabout at Thames Road to the A282 roundabout.

The Order will become effective on 23rd May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to take place 29th May 2011 and 26th June 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Burnham Road, Victoria Road, Hythe Street, Highfield Road, East Hill, Park Road and Princes Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the Bridge Triathlon.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

LAURESTON PLACE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Laureston Place, Dover, on or after 6 June 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Castle Hill. The alternative route is via A258 Castle Hill Road and Victoria Park

UPPER STREET, KINGSDOWN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Upper Street, Kingsdown, on or after 6 June 2011 for up to 11 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Chalk Hill Road, Ringwould Road, A258 Dover Road, Granville Road, Kingsdown Road and Cliffe Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

SPRINGHEAD ROAD, NORTHFLEET - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Springhead Road, Northfleet between York Road and Thames Way.

The Order will become effective on 23rd May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Thames Way, London Road and Springhead Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate renewal of existing gas main.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A249 SITTINGBOURNE ROAD/DETLING HILL AND OTHER ROADS AT DETLING/THURNHAM/STOCKBURY) (TRAFFIC SPEED AND TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic speed, the regulation of traffic and the use by traffic as described below. The order shall come into operation at times when required on 28th/29th/30th May 2011 and 15th/16th/17th July 2011.

Schedule

(The Speed limits and Traffic Regulations)

1. Traffic in excess of 40 mph shall be prohibited as follows:-

- (i) On Detling Hill, Detling/Sittingbourne Road, Thurnham/Stockbury between the existing permanent 50 mph speed restriction at a point 480 metres north east of the junction with Scragged Oak Road to the turning for Detling Aerodrome Industrial Estate on the north east bound carriageway and from the Lily Spice restaurant on the south west bound carriageway. Also to prevent
- (ii) Traffic in excess of 50 mph shall be prohibited from the Lily Spice restaurant to the right hand turn into Detling Aerodrome Industrial Estate and then prohibited to 40 mph to the top of Detling Hill.
- (iii) Traffic in excess of 40 mph shall be prohibited on Sittingbourne Road/Detling Hill, Detling/Thurnham/Stockbury in both directions between its junction with the M20 roundabout (junction 7) and the M2 roundabout (junction 5).

- 2. No person shall, except upon the direction of a Police Officer, cause or permit a vehicle to:-

- (i) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 south west bound into Scragged Oak Road.
- (ii) Carry out a right hand turn from Scragged Oak Road onto the A249 south west bound.
- (iii) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 northbound into South Green Lane.
- (iv) Carry out a right hand turn or "U" turn on the A249 northbound at its junction with Rumstead Lane.
- (v) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Aerodrome Approach.
- (vi) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Chalky Road.
- (vii) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Church Hill.
- (viii) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Honeycroft Hill.
- (ix) Carry out a right hand turn from Pett Lane northbound onto A249.

- 3. The alternative routes for traffic affected by 2(i), 2(ii), 2(iii), 2(iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), (ix) above are either:-

- (i) via the roundabout at junction 5 of the M2 motorway
- (ii) via the roundabout at junction 7 of the M20 motorway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KENWARD ROAD, YALDING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Kenward Road from Kenward Farm entrance heading northerly for 150m on or after Monday 23rd May 2011 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Kenward Road, Bow Hill, B2015 Maidstone Road, Hampstead Lane, The Lees, High Street.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for drainage works. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Jamie Finch on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

DARTFORD ROAD, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Dartford Road, Sevenoaks between The Drive and The Vine.

The Order will become effective on 23rd May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 28th May 2011 20.00 and end 29th May 2011 17.00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Pembroke Road, London Road, Tubs Hill and St Botolphs Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate removal of a tower crane from Southdown's Homes.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

CHESTNUT STREET, BORDEN (WIDTH RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to make an Order to suspend the 6' 6" width restriction on Chestnut Street, Borden, on or after 6 June 2011 for up to 5 days or until works have been completed.

This is for the use of Chestnut Street as a diversion whilst the southbound carriageway of the A249 is closed for maintenance works, and applies when the relevant signs are covered or removed.

This Order suspends the Kent County Council (Various Roads, Borden, Bredgar, Bicknor, Tunstall and Sittingbourne) (Width Restriction) Order 1990

NORTON ROAD, NORTON, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow BT access to chambers for gulley cleaning, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Norton Road, Norton, Faversham, on or after 1 June 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with London Road and Lewson Street Road.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road and Provender Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, BREDGAR AND TUNSTALL, SWALE) (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 40 mph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

Bredgar Road from the junction with Rookery Close for a distance of 420 metres in an easterly direction and 220 metres in a westerly direction to the existing 30 mph speed limit terminal.

Swanton Street from the junction with Bashford Barn Lane for a distance of 600 metres in a southerly direction and 375 metres in a northerly direction to the existing 30 mph speed limit terminal.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Order which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations in writing to the Transport and Development Manager Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TD.Ashford.Swale@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on 13th June 2011

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

COTTAGE ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new gas supply to Hibernia Cottage, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cottage Road, Ramsgate, on or after 6 June 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Abbott's Hill and Hibernia Street.

The alternative route is via Hibernia Street, Camden Road and Abbott's Hill.

COTTINGTON ROAD, MINSTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic speed, the regulation of traffic and the use by traffic as described below. The order shall come into operation at times when required on 28th/29th/30th May 2011 and 15th/16th/17th July 2011.

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways





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Because of works for the construction of new bridge parapets in connection with the forthcoming East Kent Access Road, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cottington Road, Minster, on or after 8 June 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for a total of 3 nights within the closure period, with the specific dates advised and signed on site. The planned times of closure are between 10.30 pm and 5.00 am.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Thorne Hill / Ebbsfleet Lane to the junction with Oakland Court.

The alternative route is via Foads Lane, Cliffs End Road, A256 Sandwich Road, Lord of the Manor Interchange, A299 Canterbury Road West, Tothill Street, Foxborough Lane, The Lanes and Grinsell Hill.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS WESTWOOD, THANET) (RESTRICTED ROADS) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Orders under section 82 (2) and 83 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 30 mph speed limit on various roads in the Westwood area as follows:

A254 Ramsgate Road, Westwood	From a central traffic island 10m south of 300 Ramsgate Road to Poorhole Lane
A254 Margate Road	From Poorhole Lane to the existing 30mph speed limit
A256 Haine Road	From a point 43m west of the junction with Nash Lane to and including the Westwood roundabout

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Monday to Friday at Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to: The Transportation and Development Manager (East Kent) Kent Highway Services, Ashford

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Dated 20th May 2011

Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD. Or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on Friday 10 June 2011

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (LOVE LANE, WATERINGBURY) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Love Lane, from outside number 5 to Mill Oast House on or after Monday 6th June 2011 when required for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road, Mill Lane.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for drainage works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Jamie Finch on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (LONG MILL LANE, PLATT) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Long Mill Lane, outside of 'Wyckwood' on or after Monday 23rd May 2011 when required for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Comp Lane, Boneashe Lane, Potash Lane, Long Mill Lane.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to supply a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Alen Piralic of Renteq Traffic Management Ltd on 01634 256291.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

Dated 20th May 2011

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/11/0465/N - FIRST FLOOR AND SECOND FLOOR, 85, BANK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SD - Change of use of 1st and 2nd floor offices to 5 bedroom flat. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/0499/N - 8, CHURCHILL COTTAGES, LIVERTON HILL, SANDWAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2NJ - Erection of a two storey rear extension. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/0500/N - 8, CHURCHILL COTTAGES, LIVERTON HILL, SANDWAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2NJ - An application for listed building consent for demolition of first floor extension and conservatory and erection of a two storey rear extension. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0550/S - ROCK FARM, GIBBS HILL, NETTLESTEAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 5HT - Rebuilding of stables to form accommodation for holiday let. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0575/N - DETLING LIME WORKS, HERMITAGE LANE, DETLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3HW - Variation of condition 5 of appeal decision of MA/05/1462 (Retrospective application for the change of use of land to a mixed use of residential and business use to include the stationing of 1 number caravan and the retention of 3 number outbuildings (2 being conjoined) to allow a second vehicle to be kept on the site). **Reason: 7**

MA/11/0600/S - LAND ADJ. WILSONS LANE, EAST FARLEIGH, KENT - Retrospective application for change of use from agricultural use to equestrian use (resubmission of MA/10/1908). **Reason: 6**

MA/11/0602/S - LINTON PARK SCHOOL, HEATH ROAD, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4HT - An application to vary condition 14 of permission MA/06/2070 so that the number of pupils registered on the school roll shall not at any time exceed 200. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/0603/N - 6 JAMES WHATMAN COURT, TURKEY MILL, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5SS - Application for Listed Building consent for installation of replacement entrance doors, windows and new logo. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0604/N - 6 JAMES WHATMAN COURT, TURKEY MILL, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5SS - Installation of replacement entrance doors and windows. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0607/S - GREEN COURT COTTAGE, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AP - Application for Listed Building consent for the installation of new conservation rooflights, a replacement rooflight and internal alterations, including replacement of existing staircase. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0613/N - HONYWOOD FARM, WEST STREET, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2EP - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations, including removal of ceiling joists at first floor, alterations to first floor structure including removal and replacement of first floor partitions. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0618/S - STAPLEHURST SERVICE STATION, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0BN - Renewal of permission MA/08/0205 for residential development comprising thirteen dwellings (six apartments and seven houses) with associated parking and access. **Reason: 2, 6**

MA/11/0624/S - MEREWORTH COTTAGE, LADDINGTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6BU - Erection of a single storey store/eating area to replace existing garage/store. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0635/S - 442, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9LW - An application for listed building consent for internal and external works including the introduction of a roof light and dormer to the rear elevation, joinery works and various internal works. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0639/S - THE WILLOWS, CHURCH GREEN, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9HL - Variation of condition 2 of planning permission MA/10/0562 to allow for the units to be accommodated by residents of 55 years or above and/or registered disabled. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/0661/N - ARNOLD FARM, BACK STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TF - Retrospective application for the erection of an agricultural machinery and equipment wash-down building. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Application affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 4 - Application is Major Development.
- 5 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **5th June 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 22nd May 2011

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/SW/0194/2011 - Proposed development at Unit 15A, Ridham Dock Industrial Estate, Ridham Dock Road, Ridham, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8SR.

SITA UK is applying to Kent County Council (as the Waste Planning Authority) for planning permission for the use of building 15A for internal shredding and screening of wood; use of existing weighbridge, weighbridge office, site office and washroom/toilet to the south of building 15A and use of external storage area to the north for storage of shredded wood.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

KCC/AS/0207/2011 - Proposed development at Charing Wastewater Treatment Works, Dog Kennel Lane, Maidstone Road, Charing, Ashford, Kent, TN27 0JL.

Southern Water Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for development of three buildings (GRP Kiosks) as part of upgrading to Charing Wastewater Treatment Works.

You may view this application at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours. Alternatively, the application documents can be viewed via a computer link using Kent County Council's website shown below, at the following locations:-

- a) Ashford Borough Council, Central Reception in the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford
- b) The Gateway Centre, 14 Park Mall, Ashford
- c) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 22 May 2011





Taste of the
Med thrives
in seaside
suburbia

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Our unbeatable look
at the best of what's
on at the movies

SEE PAGE 67

Kent Weekend



Hallo
there!

What's new at
Wildwood?

TURN TO PAGE 59

PLUS: Will the political independents ever have their day? - **talking point p50** How you can live in the style of the Tudors in one extraordinary house - **kent's finest property of the week p72** Discover why the Nissan Micra is still a little gem worth treasuring - **driving p85**



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Tony's still showing us the way

Nick Ames talks to singer Tony Christie about his new UK tour and how 'that' song revived his career

Amarillo – if you've ever wondered the way there – is just off Route 66 in Texas and even gets a mention in the famous song about the highway.

Written in 1946 by Bobby Troup, (Get Your Kicks On) Route 66 has been recorded by Nat King Cole, Chuck Berry, The Rolling Stones and Depeche Mode.

But probably not too many people in the UK would have even heard of the place – let alone know the way to it – without Tony Christie, the Doncaster-born singer who is now celebrating 50 years in showbusiness with a UK tour, which takes in the Central Theatre, Chatham, on Sunday (May 22) and the .

Comedian Peter Kay decided to re-release Christie's 1971 hit as a Comic Relief single in 2005 and it was at the top of the charts for seven weeks. The video features Kay lip-synching and a variety of other stars including Ronnie Corbett.

"Peter Kay did me a favour," said Christie, who had been semi-retired in Spain when his biggest hit was revived by the comedian.

"He gave me the impetus to get back to the UK and carry on my career here. I had fantastic success everywhere else, but I couldn't get a hit here. Now that has changed and I'm playing live to great audiences on this tour. The hits, of course, but also new material, which is going down really well. I'm really enjoying it"

Despite a brief return to the music scene in 1999 as the vocalist on The All Seeing Eye's Walk Like A Panther, which was written by Pulp main man Jarvis Cocker, much of the 67-year-old's success has been in Europe,



where Amarillo reached No 1 in several countries on its original release.

His greatest successes of the 1990s had come in Germany, where his crooning style fitted the love of quiet sentimental love songs, although Christie admits it was largely because that paid the bills.

That all changed after Kay's intervention introduced him to a whole new audience.

"I was living very happily in Spain playing a lot of golf, but the success meant I came back to Britain – sadly, I don't play such a good game of golf any more."

"I asked Peter why he chose that song and he said his mum used to have my albums and

played them to him as a baby to put him to sleep."

Kay's interest and appreciation of the song Amarillo did not, as fans of his sitcom Phoenix Nights will know, begin with the Comic Relief single.

The song also appeared in an episode of Kay's Channel 4 comedy, set in a Bolton nightclub. But if it hadn't been for co-star Paddy McGuinness's inability to remember lyrics to another song, it would not be the hit it has been in recent years.

"Apparently it was either Amarillo or the song Green Door by Shakin' Stevens," Christie said. "But Paddy couldn't

remember the words to Green Door. So they went with Amarillo, because it's just 'sha la la'."

"Peter told me that and I also love the video – that's what sold the song. I get a lot of younger people at my shows now as well. They bought the album that came with that song, so they're listening to stuff I recorded 30 years ago."

Christie learnt his trade in the bars, pubs and clubs of South Yorkshire in the 1960s.

"To me, people like Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett, they were the ubercool, they were what I aspired to. I know music people these days tend to dismiss us as cheesy entertainers. They forget that's how music was in those days."

"But of course you had to be really slick. You had to be able to talk to an audience and hold them. Being a crooner in the 40s and 50s used to be cool. They used to call Sinatra and Dean Martin crooners, so it's not that bad."

Another major hit was the song Avenues And Alleyways, which was the theme to a TV show called The Protectors.

"The songwriters were in a studio next door to where I was recording and they asked me if I would do a demo version," Christie said. "So I said yes, even though they'd only written the hook line."

"When the TV company heard it, though, they loved it – and said we have to have that voice. So the songwriters went away and wrote the rest of the lyrics and I recorded it."

Christie said he first realised he could sing in primary school: "The music teacher moved me from the back of the class to the front row and said 'You really can sing'."

"I was never trained, it's just natural, maybe it's in the genes or something. I do scales for 10 minutes a day to practise, but I'm playing around two hours a night – singing constantly."

"One thing I have done is given up drinking to protect my voice – I travel separately from the band to avoid temptation."

■ Tickets for Tony Christie at the Central Theatre, Chatham, on Sunday, May 22, cost £20.50 (band A) and £19 (band B). Phone the box office on 01634 338338.

To see him at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Sunday, June 26, where tickets are priced at £22.50, visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



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LAST year more than a third of eligible voters decided they would rather stay at home than have their say on who should run the country. Of the 26 million people who did make the effort on general election day, an almost identical percentage voted in favour of a Conservative government led by David Cameron.

In contrast, not one single person voted for – nor had the opportunity to vote for – the Con-Lib Coalition we now find ourselves ruled by.

Had the millions of people who opted against using their vote instead put it to good use, the make-up of Parliament could look a lot different today. But despite growing disillusionment towards the three main parties, independent candidates and members of minor groups such as the Greens are still finding voter support hard to come by.

"People are more likely to not vote at all if they don't like any of the three main parties, and it's very frustrating," said Victor Webb, who made history this month as the first UK Independence Party member to be elected onto Tunbridge Wells council.

"All you hear when you knock on some people's doorsteps is how we're 'all the same', so we put in a lot of work to distinguish ourselves from the national politicians.

"We don't receive anywhere near the same level of publicity as the main parties do. I was supposed to be interviewed for a BBC television programme after the local elections but I was bumped in favour of a former Labour MP. That says it all really. It makes you wonder what you've got to do to get noticed."

Despite being a member of a relatively well-known party in UKIP, it still took Mr Webb nine years of local campaigning to win a seat on Tunbridge Wells council when he could arguably have done so a lot quicker had he been a supporter of Labour, the Conservatives or the Liberal Democrats.

In Liverpool, for example, an 18-year-old Labour candidate ousted Lib Dem peer and council leader Lord Mike Story from his seat at the local elections.

While the youngster may end up being a good representative for his ward, it is doubtful he would have achieved such early success had he put his name forward as an independent.

But according to Cllr Richard Lees – Kent county councillor representing Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents' Association – not being associated with a main party is one of the biggest selling points of being an independent.

He said: "We provide a completely local and unhindered service, and that's the key thing. We're never tied down by a party's national policies. I don't have to stand up in County Hall and say the Government spending cuts are the best solution to tackling the deficit, like the Conservatives do. I can see the cuts are making life difficult at KCC and Dartford council – very difficult."

In addition to Cllr Lees' spot on the county council, the residents' association also has four members on Dartford council and all 20 on Swanscombe and Greenhithe town council.

Cllr Lees said he thought the bond between councillors and residents was key to the group's success.

He added: "People relate to us because we're helping our next-door neighbours or the school up the road. As a group we're also very accessible – everyone knows us and knows how to get hold of us. That's a big part of our success and our charm, and we really do listen to what's going on. We don't need to hold surgeries to find out what the problems are because we're living among them and already know."

The major political parties have an iron grip on voters' loyalties. Reporter STEVE KNIGHT investigates whether independent candidates and minor parties can ever break through into the mainstream, and if national politics should be kept out of local elections



OUT FOR THE COUNT:
Independent candidates and minor parties say they face a tough battle to get voters' attention in the run up to polling day

INDEPENDENTS' DAY – WILL IT EVER HAPPEN?

669

People relate to us because we're helping our neighbours or the school up the road. We don't need to hold surgeries to find out what the problems are because we already know.

CLLR RICHARD LEES

Another group with high hopes of success at the local elections was the Ashford Independent Party, but leader Cllr Peter Davison was left disappointed despite increasing its number of councillors from four to five.

He is one of a growing number of people who believe voters should place their trust in the hands of those who put local issues before party loyalties.

Cllr Davison said: "There is no place for national party politics in local government because the key issue should be to listen to local people.

"I think it's a fair assumption that more and more voters will turn to independent councillors, and the Localism Bill makes clear that people whose lives are touched by major decisions should have a say in those decisions."

"We shouldn't be giving so much power to egomaniacs on a power trip. Enough is enough."

A common misconception among some voters is that independent election candidates are somehow less qualified than those aligned with the main parties. But with teachers, nurses, surgeons, IT specialists and businessmen among those signed up to Ashford Independents, Cllr Davison is looking to dispel the stigma.

He said: "We're analysing what needs to be done in Ashford and putting in place people who

have the knowledge, and experience to suggest how we can do things better.

"Give us another four years and we will come back even stronger."

While both the Ashford Independent Party and the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents' Association have achieved modest success in recent years, it is clear that truly independent councillors are few and far between in Kent.

Cllr Lees said it would be beneficial for the county as a whole if like-minded individuals could come together and share best practice in an attempt to win voters over.

He added: "I would love to see more independent councillors. I've nothing against people who represent the main parties because a lot work hard in their communities, but they're always tethered to what Clegg and Cameron do at a national level and can't get away from that."

"I think that showed during the local elections when the Tories sent Baroness Warsi to Dartford and Labour had Ed Miliband in Gravesend to draw the voters out."

"We can't rely on those media stunts but we also don't need to because we have that close relationship with the local people, and we will continue to be successful because of that."

HAVE YOUR SAY...

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BERTH: Memorabilia from HMS Formidable will be moving to Chatham Grammar School for Boys

New generation takes on a Formidable tale

Mathew Beech

mathew.beech@archant.co.uk

A NEW home has been found for the naval standard and other priceless items from 'the ship that launched herself'.

The HMS Formidable Association has offered priceless items from the World War Two aircraft carrier to Chatham Grammar School for Boys.

The group for the ship's veterans made the decision because membership is dwindling and they decided the school, which has close ties to Chatham Dockyard, the ideal place for the memorabilia.

Construction on the Illustrious-class aircraft carrier began on June 17, 1937, at the Harland & Wolff yard in Belfast.

Lady Kingsley Wood attended the launch ceremony with her husband, the then air minister Sir Kingsley Wood, on August 17, 1939.

Beneath the ship, dockers were working on the launching gear, when one of the wooden cradles supporting most of the carrier's 23,000 tonnes broke, causing the ship to start sliding down the slipway.

With great presence of mind, Lady Wood took the bottle of Empire wine and smashed it against the bow of the ship, following maritime lore which is meant to prevent an unlucky life at sea.

In the accident, shattered splinters of wood and twisted metal were flung into the crowd, causing one fatality and 22 injuries, although Formidable's hull was undamaged.



FLIGHT DECK: A Grumman Martlet taxiing along the flight deck of HMS Formidable

Following its eventful launch, HMS Formidable was commissioned on November 24, 1940, before she, and her 2,200 crew, were deployed to the Battle of Cape Matapan, near Crete, in March 1941.

In May, 1941, she was hit by two 2,200lb bombs, putting the ship out of action for six months.

The following year, HMS Formidable travelled across the Pacific Ocean, serving in the Indian Ocean before returning back to the Mediterranean.

The ship provided air support in the critical North African Campaign for the Allies and also in the Italian Campaign, playing an important role in the invasion of Sicily in 1943.

Later the same year, she was then deployed to protect merchant convoys in the arctic and in November, sunk a German U-boat.

Towards the end of the war, she was involved in a series of operations of the coast of Norway, before finally entering service against Japanese forces in 1945 and surviving numerous kamikaze attacks.

Eight crew members were killed and a further 47 were injured in one attack, which saw a plane dive from a great height, crashing into the flight deck, starting a major fire on board.

Following the end of the war, the Royal Navy conducted a fleet review and it was discovered the damage suffered to HMS Formidable meant it was un-economical to repair her.

She was then put in reserve in 1947 but never saw action again before being sold off for scrap in 1953, before finally being pulled apart and scrapped in November, 1956.

The HMS Formidable Standard and other items will now be displayed at the Chatham Grammar School for Boys.

Colin Field, deputy headteacher at the school said: "We are currently planning an archive room in the school where we will be able to more openly share much of the history of our school with our community and people will be able to see the strong maritime links we have always enjoyed."

Keith Quilter, who served on Formidable, added: "I would like to add my complete ease at finding that the school appreciates the significance of the Standard to us remaining shipmates who served in Formidable."

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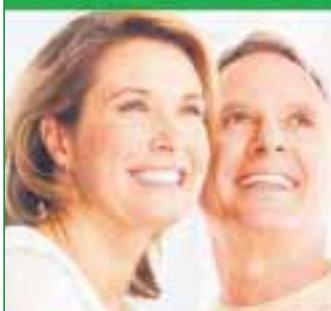
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Picture: PAUL JERREAT

Farmers' markets**Bridge**

THE market at The Red Lion pub on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month aims to give shoppers the opportunity to buy high-quality, nutritious and fresh local food and drink which contributes to their well-being and protects their environment.

Tunbridge Wells

THE market is located in the historic centre of Tunbridge Wells, The Pantiles, and sells local produce. It revives the tradition of an open-air market held there a few centuries ago and takes place on the first and third Saturdays of the month between the hours of 9am-2pm.

Hythe

HYTHE Farmers' Market was established in March, 2004, by popular demand from those who wanted good-quality local food. It is now located in the Methodist church hall and is open on the second and fourth Saturdays every month from 10am-noon.

Cliftonville

CLIFTONVILLE Farmers' Market was established in 2001 by the Cliftonville Residents' Association and is held on the last Sunday of the month on the Eastern Esplanade. It is run by volunteers, is self-funded, and has received several awards.

Dartford

DARTFORD Farmers' Market began in November, 2005, and has been running since then. The market is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford High Street and is open between 10am and 2pm on the third Friday of the month offering local produce.

Iwade

IWADE Village Hall first opened its farmers' market in February, 2009, and is open on the first Sunday of the month from 10am-1pm. It offers fresh seasonal local produce including organic meats and a range of other items such as bread, cakes and pastries.

■ For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk

Mediterranean delights the real star on show at JoJo's

UNtil about 18 months ago, JoJo's restaurant was situated on the ground floor of a blue-fronted, three-storey house in the suburban outskirts of Whitstable.

In its rather unassuming surrounds it began to make a name for itself for its simple, but deliciously fresh Mediterranean dishes, served in mezze/tapas-style (it covers both), with an ethos of fresh, local and organic wherever possible.

Although unintended, its success meant that Nikki Billington and partner Paul Watson recently had to make the move to bigger premises – an old Spa supermarket building just around the corner in Tankerton, still surrounded by suburban houses, but with uninterrupted views of the sea. The building was gutted, refurbished with the resulting interior totally befitting the restaurant's ambitions.

The atmosphere is relaxed, though the drama in the kitchen is open to view. The interior is spacious and unadorned, with bare wood everywhere – floorboards, tables, chairs.

Windows looking out to sea, battered leather sofas by a fireplace and shelves packed with Nikki's cookbooks invite you to slow the pace right down.

But it is the food that is the star of the show.

Rave national reviews have propelled this restaurant firmly into the public's gaze – as **Kiki Case** discovers

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Nikki (above) and her partner Paul Watson have recently had to move JoJo's from its humble beginnings to bigger premises, such has been the success of their venture

Dishes are prepared there and then in front of your eyes, from a menu of delightful bites from Greece, Spain, Italy and even England.

Items change to allow for fresh seasonal ingredients and a blackboard shows a selection of daily specials. A range of cured meats is always present – spicy chorizo, Serrano ham, Fiocco di Spalla, all served with crustini and seasonal jelly, and all around £7.95, but with plentiful portions to share. Indeed, all the tapas dishes are generous – and your waiter or waitress will advise you to go easy on the ordering. There are delicious cooked dishes – the freshest calamari, chargrilled sardines, tender slices of lamb, Monkhill mutton koftas.

Vegetarians will be pleased too with the classic patatas bravas, deep fried courgette flowers, Greek salad and the scrumptious risotto balls, deep fried, and usually containing pea and mint or, sometimes, porcini. And the cheese board of tasty Spanish, Italian and English cheeses is delightful. Prices range from £3.95 to

£9.50, and with a BYOB policy, you can enjoy a delicious meal at a very reasonable price.

Nikki's cooking is deft, influenced by time spent travelling and working in Greece, Spain and Italy, having worked herself up to head chef from washer up and mussel bearder at the Whitstable Oyster Restaurant in the early 90s.

On her return home she decided to open Jojo's, with a plan to keep it small and not all-consuming. However, a couple of rave national press reviews brought it to the attention of food lovers and tables at the restaurant are now constantly in demand.

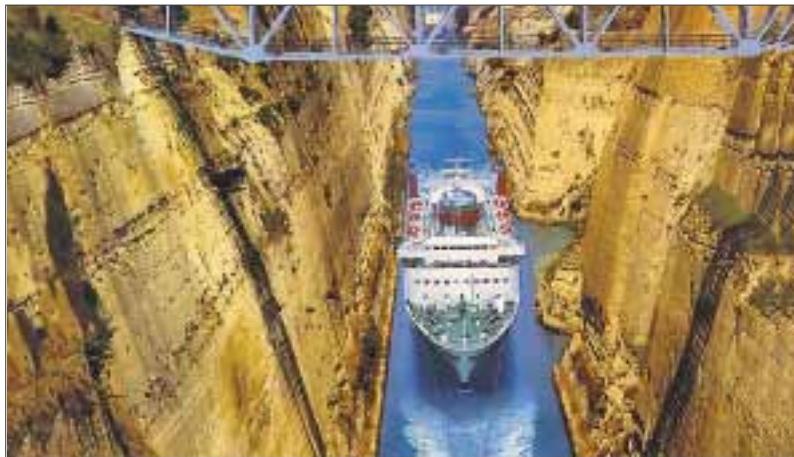
Booking is advisable, but reservations are taken no more than two weeks in advance.

There is a coffee shop, too, with homemade cakes and snacks, which is open everyday (except Monday, when the whole restaurant is closed) from 9am-5pm.

■ **JoJo's meze, meat & fish, 2 Herne Bay Road, Tankerton, Whitstable, CT5 2LQ. Tel: 01227 274591. www.jojosrestaurant.co.uk.**



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- Return Car Ferry



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- Indoor pool & sauna
- Return car ferry



Le Petit Poisson Herne Bay

Why here...

This diminutive fish restaurant on Herne Bay seafront (by the pier) is an unexpected delight. Recently refurbished but with alfresco dining in the summer, there are uninterrupted sea views.

On the menu...

A relatively small menu delivers excellent food. With a French influence, a range from oysters and moules marinieres to the finer smoked haddock chowder with fennel emulsion, and baked fillet of cod. Excellent.

How to book...

Pier Approach, Herne Bay, CT6 5JN
phone: 01227 361199
web: www.lepetitpoisson.co.uk

County seafood has the mussel to pull in diners

SO what if we keep going on about it, but we are extremely lucky here in Kent to have such fantastic local produce. The county is famed for its orchards, farms, breweries and vineyards.

But we are also privilged to have some of the UK's finest coastlines, 50 miles of it, to be exact. This also means we have access to some of the best fresh fish and seafood available on the market.

There are some seriously good wet-fish shops, which not only supply locally but also to markets in London and just across the Channel in France. In Thanet alone, there are two excellent fishmongers – Fruits De Mer in Broadstairs and Eddie Gilbert's in Ramsgate.

We are also fortunate to have other award-winning

suppliers like Sankey's in Tunbridge Wells, Griggs of Hythe and Chapman's in Sevenoaks, to name a few.

Some of these will have their own boats that go out to sea, and others will have built good relations with local fishermen – but in all of them you will find excellent local catch.

The small seaside town of Whitstable thrives off its reputation for some of the best fishing markets and restaurants attracting wealthy tourists from London.

On bank holidays or even just at the weekend, it is no coincidence that the most popular area of the town is the harbour and fish market. With such fresh fish and seafood so easily accessible in the county, there are bound to be excellent seafood restaurants, too – a few of them opened by the fishmongers themselves. Here are six of the best...



Wheeler's Oyster Bar Whitstable

Why here...

This discovered 'hidden gem', a tiny pink building that has stood on the high street in Whitstable for some 150 years, is more than an oyster bar. Go past the front shop to the back parlour, which functions as the dining room with only four tables.

On the menu...

Award-winner Mark Stubbs uses local ingredients straight from the boat. Monkfish osso buco, with lobster linguine, steamed shellfish and bouillabaisse soup are specials, to name but a few.

How to book...

8 High Street, Whitstable CT5 1BQ
phone: 01227 273311



Sankey's Tunbridge

Why here...

Established for some 50 years, Sankey's started life as a pub, with open fires, cask ales and a seafood brasserie based in the yorkstone old cellars. Two years ago, it opened a fishmongers in town, and the company has since won two awards: the brasserie was given a 4.5 blue fish rating by fish2fork for its commitment to sustainability and the fishmongers was voted seafood retailer of

the year in the Taste of Kent awards.

On the menu...

The menu features fish and seafood from around the British coast, together with the best daily local catch, prepared by French chef Jack Petit. Simple but skilled dishes include its own classics, such as fishcakes and Sankey's smokies.

How to book...

39 Mount Ephraim, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN4 8AA
phone: 01892 511422
web: www.sankeys.co.uk

Rocksalt Folkestone

Why here...

The opening of this new restaurant is Michelin-starred chef Mark Sargeant's first venture since leaving Gordon Ramsay. Overlooks the boat fishermen and has panoramic views of the port.

On the menu...

Head chef Simon Dyer will use daily specials taking in the day's catch. Example dishes are celeriac and smoked coley brandade, crab with harissa and toast, and Mark's mackerel pasty.

How to book...

Reservations being made now: 4-5 Fishmarket, Folkestone CT19 6AA
phone: 01303 884 633; web: www.rocksaltfolkestone.co.uk



Eddie Gilbert's Ramsgate

Why here...

Starting out as a fishmongers and fish-and-chip shop, owner Jonny Dunhill later converted the upstairs of the building, situated in an unlikely location in Ramsgate, into a fine-dining fish restaurant. In its short 18-month life, it has already amassed awards and praise from food critics, turning it into a destination restaurant for people as far away as London.

You can some excellent service, too.

On the menu...

Michelin-trained chef Craig Mather brings his personality to the table with dishes such as crispy smoked-eel soldiers and soft-boiled duck egg (Jay Rayner's starter of the year 2010). There's also a great choice of fish from the Kentish coast, so very close.

How to book...

32 King Street Ramsgate CT11 8NT
phone: 01843 852123
web: www.eddriegilberts.com



Hythe Bay Hythe

Why here...

Situated right on the beach, this restaurant and bar, owned by the family that runs Eastwell Manor Hotel, offers a seafood experience with superb sea views out on the terrace in the summer.

On the menu...

The restaurant focuses on the local fishermen's catch. Simple cooking allows the freshness of the seafood to speak for itself. Very tempting is the whole lobster, offered in five different ways.

How to book...

Marine Parade, Hythe, CT21 6AW
phone: 01303 233844
web: www.thehythebay.co.uk

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DESIGNED BY WILLIAM FRICKER
MOVEMENT BY BETTINA STRICKLER
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Grand history of our wildlife Wildwood

Wildwood Trust, Blean
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www.wildwoodtrust.org
 Open every day from 10am

WILDWOOD is a great day out for all the family where you can come nose to nose with British wildlife. Run by the Wildwood Trust, a conservation charity dedicated to protecting British wildlife, this is a unique conservation project which tells the story of our wild species over the past 1,000 years. Many of the animals at Wildwood are now extinct in the UK or under threat, so your visit will help save some of what's left. Join experts for free close-up talks and feeds with wolves, foxes, deer, badgers, owls, wild horses, lynx, beavers, wild cats, bison and more. Youngsters can also go wild in the adventure play park featuring Kent's tallest vertical drop-slide, wild fort and twisting tube-slide.



Historic battle re-enactment Medieval fair

Badlesmere, Faversham
 Saturday to Sunday, May 21-22
 01227 375618
 Starting at 8am both days

WITH Norse gods topping the film charts through Marvel's movie adaption of Thor, it is only appropriate that Vikings will be making an appearance at the Badlesmere Medieval Fair. The annual festivities

will show local history among side shows and stalls. The programme of events includes a Sunday boot fair, music from the Original Chill Billies and displays of archery and medieval warfare, combat through the ages and a representation of a Viking attack on the village of Badlesmere in 1011.

Dylan Hampshire, co-ordinating the historical displays, said: "It feels important to bring local history to life, and we wanted to show the Vikings as this year marks the 1,000th anniversary of the Danish capture of Canterbury."

There will be a choice of food, from hog roast through to Indian cuisine from Corrine's Creative Kitchens and the community-run barbecue, with drinks from the village hall or The Red Lion bar.

You will be able to peruse stalls hosting plants, arts and crafts and jewellery.

The fair is in aid of the Badlesmere Leas Preservation Society, which maintains the common next to The Red Lion.

Kim Sharrock, committee member, said: "Last year we had a lovely weekend and are glad to welcome back the re-enactors."



New attraction Adventure on the high seas

Hop Farm, Paddock Wood
 01622 872 068
www.thehopfarm.co.uk
 Open 9am to 5.30pm

GET ready for swashbuckling adventure at The Hop Farm family park's new attraction, Pirate Cove.

Children can now know what it was like to be Captain Jack Sparrow for the day by exploring the 40ft golden galleon and all that surrounds it.

Once they have finished exploring the ship from port to starboard, there's the chance to help Captain Fluff find her lost treasure by following clues around Pirate Cove.

If mini pirate visitors are clever enough to unscramble the treasure-trove password, they can get their hands on a special prize.

Gold hunters will love the chance to pan for gold at Pirate Cove and there's plenty of 'pieces of eight' to be found in the sand.

Weigh your gold and you could be in with a chance of swapping your booty for a sticker. The Hop Farm is one of Kent's largest attractions, featuring events for the family, including a children's driving school, outdoor adventure play area and animal farm.



Fun exhibition The ancient Egyptians

Chiddington Castle
 Sunday, May 29
chiddingtoncastle.org.uk
 Tickets: adults £7, children £5

CHIDDINGSTONE Castle is celebrating its amazing Egyptian collection with a festival including talks from an Egyptology society.

The whole family can join in interactive performances with the castle's own Egyptian Pharaoh, while children will have the opportunity to enjoy

Park proms Fireworks and music

Whatman River Park, Maidstone
 Saturday, May 28, 7.30pm.
 01622 758611

MAIDSTONE'S Proms In The Park is back for another year. International outfit Euregion from The Netherlands will be playing down by the river with the Maidstone Singers. They are sure to perform another memorable concert at the scenic Maidstone Riverstage.

The free gig will include music from some of the world's greatest bands and composer Andrew Lloyd Webber. There will also be traditional favourites from Elgar, Handel and Rossini.

Visitors are invited to come along to the Millennium Park early and have a picnic from 4pm to get into the summer atmosphere.

The proms will start at 7.30pm and be followed by a riverside fireworks display at about 9pm.

arts and crafts activities and face-painting.

Belly-dancing workshops will bring the essence of Egypt to life, while the food stalls give an insight into the culinary arts of the ancient Egyptians.

The festival is the ideal time to explore the castle's own Egyptian collection, which brings to life many aspects of ancient Egyptian culture from farming and writing to religion and perceptions of death and the afterlife.

The exhibition introduces us to Denys Eyre Bower, who, inspired by the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb in 1922, began amassing this fine collection, which includes Shabti figures from 150BC.

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31 May - 5 June**

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Specialists on life in the Medieval Times hold interactive demonstrations

www.hevercastle.co.uk

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Jousting Tournament

Tuesday 31 May to Sunday 5 June

Medieval entertainment for the whole family.
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Key to the Castle tickets:

Adults £18.50, Seniors/Students £16.00, Children £11.00

Open at 10am. Every ticket is valid for one year from date of purchase.
Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

leeds-castle.com

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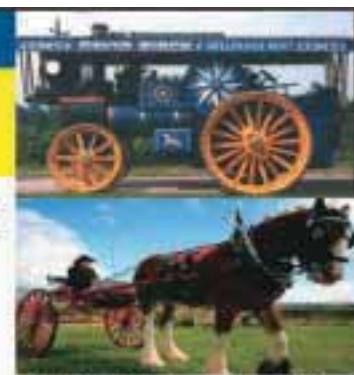
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Programme subject to change

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Music quartet A foursome talent in town

The Bandstand, Broadstairs
 Saturday, May 28
 2.30pm-4pm
www.jamie-moore.com

POPULAR Broadstairs-based guitar-and-vocals duo of Veronica Cowper and Jamie Moore will be joined by two other musicians for a special concert at the bandstand in the town. Bass-player Andee Price will be joining the duo, along with violinist Frank Biddulph. Veronica Cowper (Makhalemele) was born in South Africa and rapidly established herself as an acclaimed vocalist on the jazz and pop-music scene. She has garnered rave reviews with a variety of artists. Canadian-born-but-UK-based Jamie Moore, meanwhile, is an exceptionally versatile guitarist and composer. And all this in the lovely setting of Broadstairs seafront!



Learn the art of thatching Craft project

Anglo-Saxon roundhouse
 Frith Wood, near Ashford
 Course starts on Monday,
 May 30

PEOPLE keen to learn the skills and crafts of ancient times can learn to thatch an Anglo-Saxon roundhouse in a stretch of beautiful woodland. The project is part of creating

a woodland education centre in Frith Wood near Ashford and has been granted National Lottery funding. The building is based on a similar hut at the Castell Henllys Iron Age settlement in Wales. Thatching is a growing industry again and an enjoyable craft to learn. Students will be led by a master Thatcher and all aspects will be covered. The past few months has seen the roundhouse develop into what is now a sturdy frame, made from materials found in the local area. A one-acre area has been coppiced to

produce hazel for the wattled walls, and oak and ash have been used in the main frame. Clay and manure is ready for use on the walls, with Norfolk thatch cut for the roof. Many local people have helped with work, including British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and children. The thatching course starts on Monday, May 30. Places are limited, so booking is essential. To find out more information and to book, email touchwoodtrees@yahoo.com, or alternatively you can phone 07867 683169.



Bringing art to new audience Live in Ashford

Ashford venues
 May to October
 Revealing Ashford
www.revealingashford.co.uk

THIS summer will see the launch of one of the biggest arts events in Ashford's history. From May to October, national orchestras, international dancers, performance poets, film-makers, local bands and urban artists will take up residence in locations throughout the town as part of the Revealing Ashford programme.

Through a series of surprising and unusual events, the programme will uncover new arts experiences and emerging talent around the borough, often in locations not normally used for the arts, to attract new audiences.

Revealing Ashford is being led by Brighton-based creative director Anna Moulson. She said: "You can sense this is a really important year for Ashford arts. Clearly a lot of work has gone into raising the profile of the arts over the last few years, and there is a lot of talent here, so I am confident that we will start to see the fruits of this labour." A new performance venue will soon open at St Mary's Church in the town and Stour Valley Arts is moving to the town centre with a new gallery. See www.revealingashford.co.uk.

Fancy walking the wire? Circus skills

**The Brook Theatre,
Chatham**
 Tuesday, May 31-Friday, June 3
 01634 338338

CHILDREN in Medway have the chance to learn the skills of the big top at a half-term event. Classes at the circus workshop include wire-walking, juggling and diabolo spinning. Medway Council's arts development team has organised the event at The Brook Theatre from Tuesday, May 31, to Friday, June 3. Children aged eight to 14 will be taught by professional circus performers from Dizzy O'Dare's People. As well as juggling, children will also be given the chance to learn acrobatics and hang upside down from a rig.

Those taking part in the project will perform in a spectacular show at the end of the week. The fee for the series of four-day classes is £25 per child. To book a place, phone 01634 338338. The Circus Week runs each day from 10am to 4pm at The Brook Theatre, Old Town Hall, Chatham. Those who book will also receive a voucher allowing them £1 off the Kids' Cabaret Of Curiosities event being held on Sunday, May 29.



Goodnestone Park Gardens

Nr Wingham, Canterbury Tel:01304 840107

www.goodnestoneparkgardens.co.uk

Set in 14 acres with walled garden, arboretums, woodland and formal areas. Voted UK's sixth favourite garden in Daily Telegraph survey.

Sundays only: 13th February-27th March 12-5pm.

29th March-30th September. Tuesday-Friday 11-5pm. Sundays 12-5pm.
Closed Saturdays and Mondays EXCEPT Bank holiday Mondays. Guide dogs only



£20	Single (FULL)	up to 2 tickets
£30	Joint (FULL)	up to 4 tickets
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£10	DWP Concessions	lone discount
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Shakespeare A Midsummer Night's Dream

Hever Castle, Edenbridge
 Sat and Sun, June 4-5
 01522 569777
www.chapterhouse.org

THE Chapterhouse Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's romantic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Festival Theatre at Hever Castle. Surrounded by the lovely gardens, this production will provide good-quality family entertainment. Let the flitting fairies, forest-bound lovers and raucous tradesmen all join to create the perfect summer evening. With music written for Shakespeare's magnificent verse, lovely costumes and a band of travelling players, it promises to be one of the finest nights' entertainment of the year. Chapterhouse will also put on *Sense And Sensibility* this month.



Military music Rochester Pipe Band

Rochester high street
 Sat and Sun, June 4-5
www.corpb.co.uk
 01302 274 674

If you enjoy the skirl of the bagpipes, you don't have to go all the way to Scotland to hear them, for we have our very own pipe band right here in Kent. Having already performed in Normandy, at Arnhem in The Netherlands, the US and just last year at Luxembourg's international military tattoo, the Rochester Pipe Band is making big noises in military music-circles. The decked out troupe wowed the crowds at the St George's Day celebrations in Maidstone at the beginning of the month and has now confirmed its attendance at the always-popular Dickens Festival in Rochester.

Why not go along along, enjoy the traditional pipe tunes and cheer on the group as it parades through town with the colourful characters from the Medway author's greatest novels? And if you have ever fancied trying your hand at playing, the band welcomes new members at its practice sessions in Maidstone every Wednesday evening.

Stand-up comedy Mark Thomas

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone
 Friday, June 10, 7.30pm
 01622 758 611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

MULTI-AWARD-WINNING comedian and activist Mark Thomas has so much under his already politically-expanded belt that there could not possibly be anything

left untouched by his investigations.

His last UK tours, *The Manifesto and Stupid Economy*, both sold out nationwide and inspired audiences to voice their own ideals. The results from *Manifesto* were published in a pamphlet entitled *The People's Manifesto* and the show has also been recorded as a Radio 4 series, due to be broadcast in January. This time Thomas decided to go rambling in the Middle East and walked the length of the Israeli Separation Barrier between Israel and Palestine.

His stand-up is the story of 300,000 settlers, a 750km wall, six arrests, one stoning, too much hummus and a simple question... can you ever get away from it all with a good walk?

Thomas is one of Britain's most acclaimed comics as well as an influential activist. After 25 years of performing, numerous documentaries, two books, changing the law on tax, secretly filming torturers, stinging arms-dealers with schoolchildren and working for Channel Four, Thomas has finally conceded that he might have a career yet!



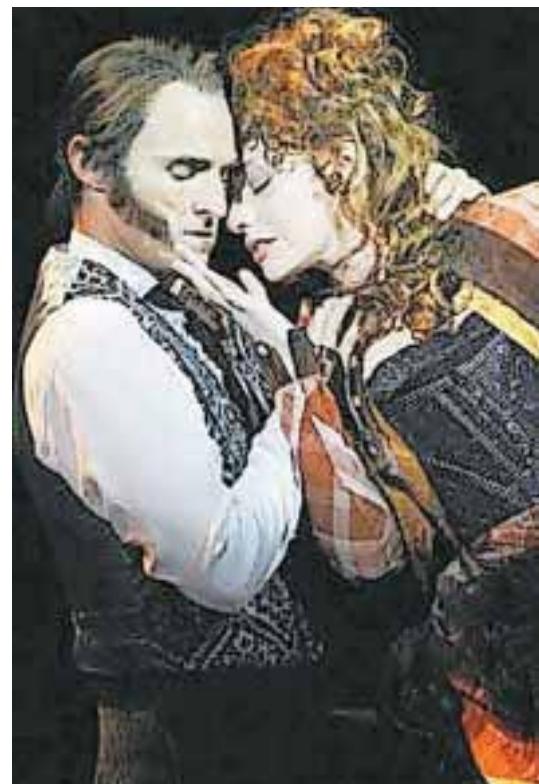
Jenkins has a special guest Wynne Evans

Music On The Hill, Kings Hill
 Fri-Sun, June 24-26
 0844 873 7339
www.musicontheshill.org.uk

DEMELZA Hospice Care for Children has announced opera-singer Wynne Evans (right) as Katherine Jenkins's guest at Music On The Hill. Evans, whose debut album *A Song In My Heart* hit No 1 in the classical chart, will be performing with Jenkins and the National Symphony Orchestra under Anthony Inglis. Evans recently signed a six-album deal with Warner Music, but he is better known to



audiences as spoof opera star Gio Compario in the Go Compare TV adverts. He said: "I am really looking forward to Music On The Hill in June. It's a fabulous event to be part of, to perform in a more intimate setting, and for two great causes."



Pellow plays Musical Jekyll And Hyde

**Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells**
 Mon, May 30, to Sat, June 4
 01892 530613

WET Wet Wet star Marti Pellow makes a return to the UK stage in a new tour of the hit Broadway musical *Jekyll And Hyde*. Written by Frank Wildhorn, with lyrics by the Academy Award-winning composer

Leslie Bricusse, the Broadway production of *Jekyll and Hyde* ran for 1,500 sell-out performances between 1997 and 2001.

Glamorous, sexy and wicked in equal measure, *Jekyll And Hyde* is based on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel. Pellow stars as the brilliant but obsessive scientist whose sadistic alter-ego wreaks havoc across Victorian London. As well as an acclaimed solo career, Pellow has starred in the West End, on Broadway and on national tour in the hit stage musicals *Chicago* and *The Witches Of Eastwick*.

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CLASSY lady, slim, pretty young looking graduate, mixed race 38, London, seeking a sugar daddy to spoil and pamper me. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367031

ELIZABETH sexy, loving kind, caring, seeks older gent, 78 plus for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366603

VERY cute, slim, black professional female, 36, looking for love! If you are honest, passionate, caring and spontaneous, ring me. Any race. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366725

GREEN eyed blonde in need of love and attention seeks youthful, trendy experienced guy to enjoy good times. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367223

ATTRACTIVE young hearted female, fed up with being alone, so if you feel the same, give me a call, lets get together. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367621

TALL busty blue eyed 30's female, brown hair, lots of interests, discreet, seeks male for no strings, good times. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367050

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for intimate evenings in and fun nights out. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703

CUTE very curly young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453

SUSIE 5ft 7ins, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385476

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079

FUN loving curly red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077

30YR old blonde, fit, feminine, attractive, free single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075

36YR old bored housewife looking for mutual companion ship with discreet understanding man stuck in a similar rut. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364431

LORNA 66, nurse, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364237

FEMALE 64, brown/grey hair, medium build, honest, caring, loving, seeks similar in male, 30-60 for friendship/relationship. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364253

LOOKING for my soul mate, 57, lonely, caring, affectionate, likes a drink in good company, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, seeks someone to share life with. Is that you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385172

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friend ship, maybe more. Heathrow. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701

MALE Guardian reader? Art, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655

GLASS half full N/S mid 50's woman, seeks other half. Are you a professional man, 50-60 who likes the finer things in life? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363793

DONNA 35, single mum of 3, seeks male with GSOH, 35-40. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361005

LORRAINE seeks trustworthy white male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364415

FEMALE 25, professional, likes nights out, socialising, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360961

A rare diamond, bright sparkly and good quality, let me put the sparkle back into your life. Wanted professional, attractive male, 38-58, medium build, 5ft 9ins. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975

MARY 60 good for age, GSOH, likes cooking, meals out, looking for some fun company, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364357

TINKERBELLE seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360633

64YR old female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friendship, days out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291

ISABELLE lovely lady, gentle, honest, loving, caring, 6N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friend ship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365157

MISS Gorgeous, 5ft 8ins, black beauty, sexy, curvy, likes a laugh, happy go lucky, seeks male for no strings fun times. Hackney. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365861

ACADEMIC man sought by female, recent graduate, into art, history, psychology, likes usual activities as well as London art galleries and walks. Brimley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365501

ATTRACTIVE confident lady, 37, independent, HIV Positive, seeks male for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363415

48YR old female, average build, good looking, likes most things, seeks male for friend ship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669

SALLY petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, TV, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362207

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215

ATTRACTIVE black lady, 5ft 5ins, black hair, slim, sensible lips, likes walks, horse riding, go karts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353389

BLACK female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382910

FIT lady, 65, thinks she's 40, N/S, loves life, seeks genuine gent, 60-70 N/S for happy living, exciting times. Gravesend. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353111

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613

FUN loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, can travel, I love a risk and having fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354999

OLD fashioned lady, 49, fun, friendly, seeks mature male for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382192

GENUINE loving female, 40, seeks loving male, 40-50 for friendship and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 345487

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slim-mish, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinkles. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349575

ATTRACTIVE slim single mom, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, are you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393

SARAH 37, caring, kind, seeks fun, caring guy, 37-49. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346319

NATALIA attractive, brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344393

PROFESSIONAL attractive, friendly, black British female, mid 40's, size 10-12 likes socialising, seeks sincere male of any nationality for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341125

44YR old male, blond hair, blue eyes, average build, likes nights out, karaoke, walks, cinema, seeks female for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366939

CHRIS 57, GSOH, down to earth, likes cooking, boot fairs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366939

BLACK male, 48, bubbly, seeks curvy, buxom, voluptuous, white female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366649

PHIL medium build, blond hair, blue eyes, likes holidays, cooking, music, countryside, seeks female for fun and friendship. Tel Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367652

TERRY 38, 5ft 7ins, 1st, seeks Asian/black female for fun and friendship, maybe more. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385772

DEL 55, 5ft 5ins, seeks attractive black female for fun and friendship, maybe more. Must be a lover of life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366667

SLIM good looking male, likes most things, seeks female for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366863

57YR old lady, works, divorced, likes beach, meals out, theatre, travel, weekends away, seeks white male, 56-61 with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359685

65YR old slim blonde, caring, loving, many interests, arts, coastal walks, animals, cooking, seeks attractive, compatible male. Dog owner in Maidstone perfect. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383676

FEMININE lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985

52YR old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357291

LATE 20's female seeking older male. Call to hear exactly what I'm like and looking for, I can meet anywhere in London at any time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356983

BUBBLY outgoing nurse, I love my uniform), fancy meeting up North London for some fun loving fun Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358620

3 8 YR old male, medium build, dark hair, blue eyes, seeking special female to take care of and have good times with. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356991

HONEST caring, genuine female, 44, GSOH, likes meals out, nights in, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356989

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, OHAC, independent, likes good things in life, sees warm, sincere female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385616

CLARE 5ft 10ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358937

FUN loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, can travel, I love a risk and having fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356981

ATTRACTIVE caring, interesting black lady, seeks educated, genuine, white male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360675

49YR old gent, seeking a lady companion, any nationality for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366059

GEORGE likes sports, socialising, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365975

TALL mature, attractive male, seeks slim, petite, Asian/Oriental/Latino lady for fun LTR. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352511

GRAHAM 45, 5ft 8ins, blond, fit, romantic, seeks loving relationship with caring, sincere woman, 30-45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364450

TALL attractive mature male, seeks slim, petite, sexy lady for intimate times. Central London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365863

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, cooking, music, countryside, seeks female for fun and loyalty, tender relationship, age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365919

TALL slim, lonely 53y old guy, seeks female for loving, tender relationship, age/looks unimportant. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366941

JAMES 64, retired, fit, grey hair, 1st, likes CD, passive, male, 40-70, dominant for fun times. Dartford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367057

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 311892

GUYI chubby, Late 40's male, seeking for someone non smoker, 35-50 with GSOH to do the gym. Chertsey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364871

SOLVENT gay male, 61, likes travel, history, seeks gent, 46-62. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364843

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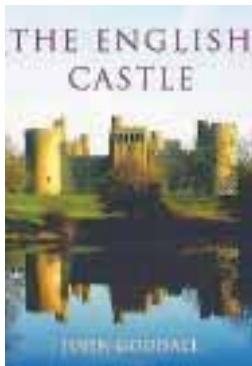
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The English Castle

John Goodall

Yale University Press, £45

KENT has its fair share of castles, and Dover is one of the icons of England – situated on the White Cliffs and defender of these shores from Norman times until the Second World War and even beyond with its network of Cold War bunkers cut deep into the chalk.

The countryside of England is dotted with castles – admittedly few are as imposing as Dover, but they all have a story to tell.

In this lavishly-illustrated work, the author has focused on castles from the 11th to the 17th centuries and their practical uses.

Castles have always been associated with the military, but here Goodall looks at how they were created in response to domestic politics – and even the fortunes of monarchs and noble families who wished to stamp their authority on the landscape.

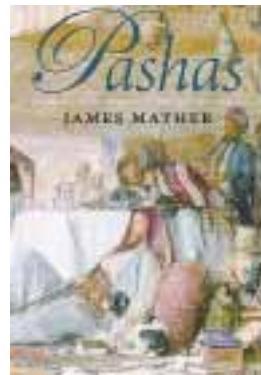
This excellent and absorbing work uses text, photographs and artwork to powerfully explain the true splendour and historical importance of the buildings it documents.

The story itself is told chronologically, with chapters corresponding to who was on the throne of England.

Alongside are dramatic and vivid accounts of the battles and sieges that make the stories of the fortresses so interesting, as well as longer accounts of campaigns such as Edward I's conquest of Wales, which led to the building of some of the most imposing castles still standing.

Social and economic angles are also explored, as is the relationship between the architecture of a castle and that of the churches of the same period.

While it is a bit heavy (in weight) to carry on a day trip around the keeps and battlements of a Medieval fortress, this book will add hugely to the enjoyment and appreciation of any castle visit.



Pashas: Traders And Travellers In The Muslim World

James Mather

Yale University Press, £12.99

THE relationship between the Western world and the Middle East is constantly in the headlines.

From the Crusades and before – as conquering Islamic armies were halted well inside territories now seen as part of western Europe – the interaction has often been violent, with conquest, conflict and exploitation seemingly ever-present.

But in the ages following the abortive attempts to recapture Jerusalem in Medieval times and the colonial era, things were slightly different as the Levant Company sought a foothold in the east.

Founded by Queen Elizabeth I, it is all but forgotten today. But in its time it was an extremely influential body, making fortunes, founding economic dynasties and broadening horizons.

Drawing on previously-untapped sources, scholar and barrister James Mather looks at the travellers and traders known as Pashas who roamed the Ottoman Empire looking to make their fortunes in the markets and souks of the exotic Islamic cities.

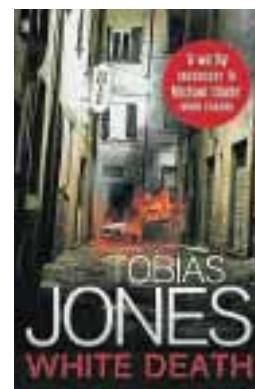
Some followed the pilgrimage routes through Damascus and into Palestine, while others traversed the ancient Silk Road. As well as merchants, envoys, pilgrims, clergymen and even those on a sort of Renaissance 'gap year', all were attracted to what were then perceived as exotic lands of silk, spices and riches.

The Pashas were not warriors – riches and trade, not loot and conquest, were foremost in their minds.

And so they both respected and learnt from the cultures they encountered in the 250

years before the dawn of the 19th century. As well as Muslims, they came into contact with Jews, Armenians and Greeks as they tried to make their fortunes.

At a time when mutual suspicion and even hatred in some quarters seems to characterise the relationship between the West and Islam, this is a valuable book. It tells how those from the European culture travelled with open eyes and open minds and traded and in some cases made their homes among those of a religion currently viewed in a negative light by too many.



White Death

Tobias Jones

Faber and Faber, £12.99

AUTHOR, journalist and sometime resident of Italy, Tobias Jones's second crime novel sees the welcome return of his bee-keeping private detective, Yuri Castagnetti.

The maverick, limping PI with a tragic past finds himself investigating his north Italian city's construction industry when a series of arson attacks lead to the death of an innocent immigrant and are proved to be more than just mindless vandalism.

Scratching the surface of what seems like a small-scale swindle, he soon uncovers a profiteering racket involving political dignitaries – and with far-reaching and murderous consequences.

The settings are excellent throughout and thoroughly convincing, while the action leaves readers in no doubt that the story is moving to an absorbing climax.

Sharing similarities with genre icon Michael Collins's Dan Fortune character, the book's troubled hero has a measured sociological worldview that complements his necessary cynicism and makes the author's work all the more rewarding.

Intelligently and economically composed, this novel offers further evidence that Jones is at the forefront of contemporary crime fiction.

Swing time Relive thrill of the Rat Pack

**Woodville Halls Theatre,
Gravesend**

Friday, June 10, 8pm
www.ratpack.biz
Box office 01474 33 77 74

THE Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular heads to Gravesend in June, bringing the sounds that charmed a generation.

Starring live will be the Rat Pack Trio alongside the Rat Pack Orchestra swinging out all the classic hits of the legendary Dean Martin, the unforgettable Frank Sinatra and the timeless Sammy Davis Junior.

The Rat Pack show brings the sights and sounds of the legends to a new level, with added extras of the Fabulous Vegas Show Girls and special guest Marilyn Monroe.

Having already played major stadiums around the world, the spectacular has been tried and tested on the tribute circuit.

The group makes use of a big-screen video projection to make offering the live show a different dimension. Stunning outfits and colours will take your senses back to those special Vegas nights.



Outdoor gig Pop bands on the forest trail

**Bedgebury Forest,
near Goudhurst**

Saturday, June 11
03000 680400

THE Total Pop! tour is part of Forestry Commission Live Music, where acts perform in spectacular woodland locations across the country. And this year Bedgebury

Forest will play host to 80s cult band Erasure and pop icon Sophie Ellis-Bextor (above). Having become established as a multi-platinum-selling artist over the past decade, Ellis-Bextor has had singles successes like Take Me Home, Get Over You and Murder on the Dancefloor. Erasure, who embraced the electronic sound of the 80s, have come full circle as futuristic sounds return to the pop charts. These shows provide a magical environment for the artists to display their atmospheric talents. Tickets cost £34.50.

Top tribute Counterfeit Stones

**Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells**

Friday, June 10, 7.30pm
01892 530613

THE Counterfeit Stones celebrate their 20th anniversary with the Exhale On Main Street tour. "The most famous Stones band in England", as quoted by Sir Mick Jagger himself, show no sign of stopping with their cocktail of classic hits, retro costume and humour.

The Counterfeit Stones will bring a huge dose of nostalgia to those who were there and an education for those who – sadly – weren't.



Dragons' Den gets the feel for an antique test of nerve



Four Rooms

Tuesdays, 8pm, Channel 4

WHAT would happen if you took the Dragons' Den format and injected a little bit of Antiques Roadshow into it? You don't have to worry about the answer to that conundrum any more. No, get on with your life. Channel 4 is about to show you just what the offspring of these two TV juggernauts would be like.

In a new series, four of Britain's top dealers in art, antiques and collectables wait in four separate rooms, each prepared to spend their own personal fortune if the right item comes through their door.

From memorabilia to a mummified mermaid, art to antiques, members of the public come to sell their prized possessions hoping to walk away with a life-changing amount of money. But to do so, they have to work out when to sell and when to see the next dealer, because once they leave the room the offer is off the table for good.

In a gripping game of risk, ambition, and sometimes plain delusion, the sellers give everything they've got to persuade the dealers that their treasure is the real deal, while the dealers have to figure out what the real value of the item is. This test of nerves will dash some hopes, but for others the process could lead to a bigger win than they could have ever dreamt.

Four Rooms provides a unique insight into the compelling world of how deals are struck, as well as fascinating information and history about a dazzling and surprising array of objects.

The show, which has been tipped by pundits to rival Dragons' Den, is presented by Anita Rani (Watchdog, The One Show); the eight-part series introduces dealer experts Emma Hawkins, Andrew Lamberty, Jeff Salmon and Gordon Watson.

The first show features a collection of Christmas cards from Princess Diana to her personal chef, an original 60s Dalek, a cigar owned by Winston Churchill and a Francis Bacon portrait all but destroyed by the artist.



CASH OR TRASH: Four antique-dealers make the offers but will their visitors accept or move on?

Weller cameo could lead Vegas and Ideal to stardom

BACK in 1995, Ben Chaplin, star of UK sitcom Game On, crossed the pond to star in the romantic comedy The Truth About Cats And Dogs with rising star Janeane Garofalo.

Proving that what goes around comes around, Garofalo did the reverse trip a couple of years ago when she was invited to star in this award-winning BBC comedy with Johnny Vegas. She returns for this new run as Moz's (Vegas) arty neighbour Tilly.

Good British sitcoms can go one of two ways.

Ideal

Thursday, May 26, 10.30pm, BBC Three

They can either become cult classics, staying on backdoor channels playing themselves out to a hardcore following. Or their excellence can finally be recognised with a lucrative future of celebrity special guests, high ratings and the eventual transfer to BBC or ITV.

With the news that the opening episode of Ideal's new series will feature Strictly Come

Dancing winner Kara Tointon and the Modfather himself, Paul Weller, we could be about to see another head the same way as The Office or Gavin And Stacey.

For newcomers, the series, penned by Graham Duff, centres on a drug-dealer and his assorted mates and associates. In the first episode, Moz plots to win back the heart of his true-love Jenny, but when he discovers she has joined the police force, his plans are thrown into disarray. Ideal could be about to explode.



SEARCH: Will the world's tallest man find love?

Could love reach amazing heights?

World's Tallest Man: Looking For Love

Thursday, May 26, 10pm, Channel 4

IN September 2009, Sultan Kosen from Turkey was crowned the world's tallest man – and he's still growing.

The 27-year-old, who stands at over eight feet tall, suffers from gigantism, a life-threatening condition that will cause him to grow even further beyond his record-breaking height.

As this documentary discovers, as well as affecting his health, his condition has also hampered his quest for love, and here cameras follow him as he searches for the girl of his dreams. Sultan has already made a new best friend in George Bell, America's tallest man, and things appear to be looking up as he then meets a woman whom he takes on his first-ever date.

But there are more challenges ahead for Sultan as he looks into a potentially life-saving operation.

It's not the first time he has been under the knife – he was born into a poor family, whose members spent most of their money on hospital treatment to remove the tumour on Sultan's pituitary gland that was causing him to grow taller.

As a result, Sultan grew up scared and alone. For the first time, Sultan invites viewers into his new home in Ankara and takes the film-makers back to where it all began and where his family open their hearts.

However, Sultan's 8ft 1in body continues to grow, threatening his life. In need of urgent treatment, this documentary follows him on an inspirational journey across the world as he goes in search of life-saving surgery.

This revealing documentary delves deep into the mind of the troubled 27-year-old and bears witness to his remarkable transformation from shy recluse into worldwide star.

But as this film uncovers, his biggest challenges are still to come. Sultan also pays a visit to the Guinness World Records offices in London, where he is remeasured, and it's here that he will be given some bittersweet news.

He strives to make it to Virginia, United States, in time to meet Dr Mary Lee Vance, one of the world's leading gigantism experts.

Will she provide the life-saving surgery he needs? Or will his remarkable life come to a premature end? This is the emotional story of the world's tallest man and his fight for survival.

Channel 4 continues to set the bar in bringing incredible documentaries to our screens... from Dispatches, tackling some of the nation's most personal and shocking subjects, to Bodyshock, which reveals the lives of people considered different to the 'average'.

The story of the world's tallest man has once again captured perfectly the mood and feelings of its subject without pushing into the realms of exploitation. If Channel 4 was a satellite channel, some would end up paying a lot of money for it.

OUR TOP FIVE

1 **Hanna (12A)** Sixteen-year-old Hanna (Saoirse Ronan) lives in snowbound Scandinavia with her father Erik (Eric Bana), honing the fighting skills she will need for the perilous mission that lies ahead: to kill ruthless CIA agent Wiebler (Cate Blanchett). Once trained and primed for action, Hanna bids farewell to her father and embarks on her quest to kill, with trained assassin Isaacs (Tom Hollander) on her trail.

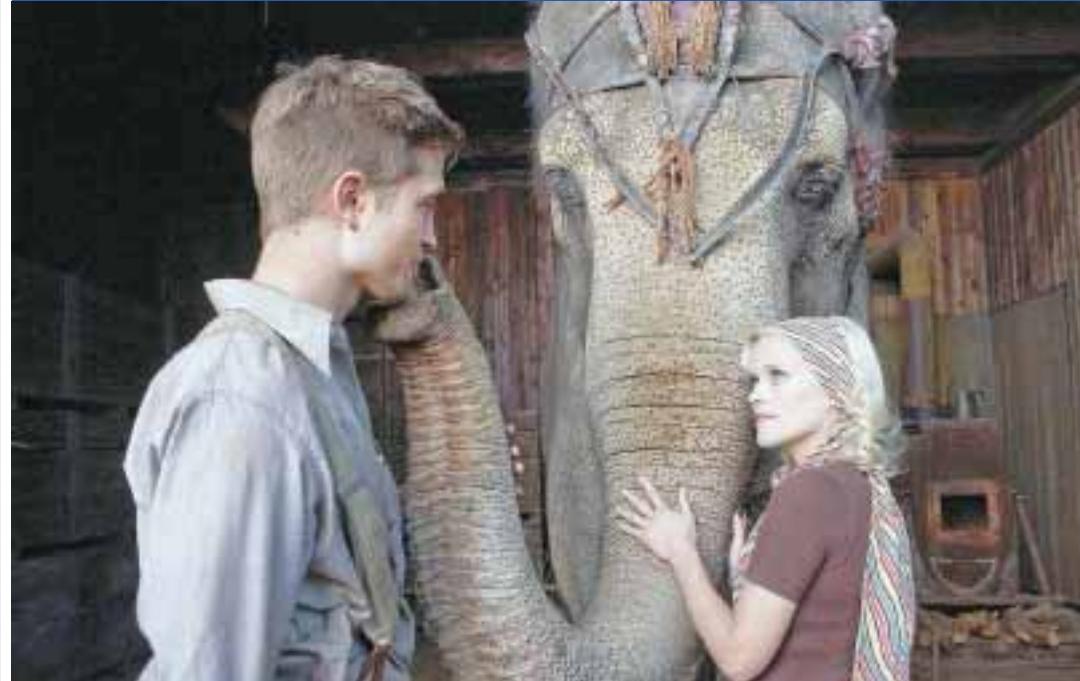
2 **Thor (12A)** In the fantastic realm of Asgard, ruled by Odin (Anthony Hopkins), Thor (Chris Hemsworth) is an arrogant heir to the throne. He acts first and thinks later. Odin strips his son of powers and despatches him to Earth as punishment; there he befriends scientist Erik Selvig (Stellan Skarsgård) and protegee Jane Foster (Natalie Portman) and must face the same trials as any mere mortal.

3 **Arthur (12A)** Arthur Bach (Russell Brand) is heir to his family's vast fortune, presided over by his emotionally-cold mother, Vivienne (Geraldine James). Vivienne informs Arthur that he will marry corporate executive Susan Johnson (Jennifer Garner) to ensure she can take charge of the company. If Arthur refuses, he will be cut off from his inheritance and the lifestyle he has known since birth.

4 **Fast & Furious 5 (12A)** Former detective Brian O'Conner (Paul Walker) and lover Mia Toretto (Jordana Brewster) spring her brother Dom (Vin Diesel) from a prison bus, then cross borders, eventually hiding out in Rio with Dom's childhood friend Vince (Matt Schulze). The fugitives are double-crossed by drug-lord Reyes (Joaquim De Almeida) and they vow their revenge.

5 **The Way (12A)** Tom (Martin Sheen) is an American optometrist whose perfect round of golf with his country-club chums is ruined by news that his son Daniel (Emilio Estevez) has been killed in the Pyrenees in a storm. The medic flies to France and discovers that Daniel died on the El Camino de Santiago, a 800-kilometre spiritual pilgrimage. Tom grabs his son's backpack and decides to complete the pilgrimage in Daniel's honour.

NEW RELEASES

**Water For Elephants****12A 110 minutes**

TWILIGHT pin-up Robert Pattinson puts a little colour in his cheeks in Francis Lawrence's gorgeously-framed adaptation of the novel by Sara Gruen about a doomed love affair in a 1930s circus troupe.

Water For Elephants is an important barometer of the young actor's appeal away from Stephenie Meyer's feuding vampires and werewolves, and an indication of his potential longevity as a romantic male lead.

Pattinson acquits himself well, playing to his strengths – angry glances straight into the camera – as one point of

a volatile love triangle that is destined to end in tragedy.

He demonstrates impressive emotional range and although screen chemistry with Oscar-winner Reese Witherspoon doesn't set our hearts aflutter, they are an attractive pairing.

The film opens in the present day with nonagenarian Jacob Jankowski (Hal Holbrook) arriving at a circus managed by Charlie (Paul Schneider) during a downpour.

At first, Charlie thinks that the confused old man has strayed from a care home, but it soon transpires that Jacob spent his formative years with the infamous Benzini Bros Circus.

"Got anything to drink around here that isn't apple juice?" asks Jacob as the two men sit down in the office, drying off.

With a glass of liquor to hand, Jacob begins to recount his incredible life story, stepping back in time seven decades to his student days at Cornell University.

Poised to take his final veterinary exam, Jacob (now played by Pattinson) learns that his parents have been killed in a car accident and abandons his studies.

With debts to pay and no roof over his head, the young man hitches a ride on a passing train, unaware it belongs to the circus run by August Rosenbluth (Christoph Waltz).

The tyrant physically and mentally abuses animals and performers, including his beautiful wife Marlena (Witherspoon), who rides the horses.

When Jacob falls under Marlena's spell, he tries to resist his feelings, working alongside the wife to win the trust of a special elephant.

However, when August notices the way that the young man stares at Marlena, he exacts a horrific revenge.

Water For Elephants casts a spell with its arresting visuals and the cast looks ravishing through a soft-focus lens.

Cinematographer Rodrigo Prieto provides a picturesque canvas for Richard LaGravenese's screenplay.

Priest 3D**12A 87 minutes**

VAMPIRES sink their computer-generated fangs into a post-apocalyptic vision of the Wild West in Scott Stewart's action adventure based on the graphic-novel series by Hyung Min-woo.

Designed for the 3D format, Priest doesn't propagate romantic visions of the immortal bloodsuckers à la Twilight.

Here, vampires are sun-starved, bat-like predators with transparent skins and no eyes which compensate for their blindness with extraordinary hearing and smell.

Humans bitten by these monsters do not take on a similar form.

Instead they become familiars – pallid vampire slaves, condemned to do the creatures' bidding during daylight hours.

Priest is a pedestrian tale of good versus evil, punctuated by well-choreographed action sequences that rely too heavily on digital effects.

It performs gravity-defying acrobatics with aplomb in her skirmishes, but it's not enough to paper over the gaps in her underwritten role, and Urban goes through the motions with striking contact lenses.

The 3D is largely redundant, except in scenes at the vampire hive, where torch beams flicker on walls, giving us a sense of the honeycomb-like tunnels stretching far into the distance which is extremely effective.



CINEMAS

ASHFORD CINEWORLD MULTIPLEX: Eureka Leisure Park. Box office 0871 2208000

BECKENHAM ODEON: High Street. Box office 0871 2244007
BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD: 28 The Broadway. Box office 020 83031550

BLUEWATER SHOWCASE WATER CIRCUS: South Village. Box office 0871 2201000

BROADSTAIRS PALACE CINEMA: Harbour Street. Box office 01843 865726

BROMLEY EMPIRE: 242 High Street. Box office 0870 5050007
CANTERBURY ODEON ST: George's Place. Box office 0871 2244007

CHATHAM CENTRAL THEATRE: 170 High Street. Box office 01634 338338

DOVER SILVER SCREEN: Market Square. Box office 01304 228000

FAVERSHAM ROYAL: 9 Market Place. Box office 01795 591211

FOLKESTONE SILVER SCREEN: Guildhall Street. Box office 01303 221230

GULBENKIAN THEATRE: University of Kent. Box office 01277 769075

HAWKHURST KINO: Victoria Hall, Rye Road. Box office 01580 754321

HERNE BAY KAVANAGH: Herne Bay Leisure Centre. Box office 01277 365676

MAIDSTONE ODEON: Lockmeadow. Box office 0871 2244007

RAMSGATE GRANVILLE: Victoria Parade. Box office 01843 591750

ROCHESTER CINEWORLD: Multiplex Medway Valley Park. Box office 08701 560568

SANDWICH EMPIRE: Delf Street. Box office 01304 620480

STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE: Stag Theatre, London Road. Box office 01732 450175

TRINITY ARTS CENTRE: Church Road, Tunbridge Wells. Box office 01892 679679

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ODEON: Knights Way. Box office 0871 22 44007

VUE: Westwood Cross, Broadstairs. Box office 08712240240

CARLTON CINEMA: Westgate-on-Sea, 25-29 St Mildred's Road. Box office 01843 832019

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www.next.co.uk

It's time to celebrate the sunshine by refreshing your summer wardrobe ready for the holidays and fun to come. Here are some ideas for the bright days ahead as designers and stores prepare for the blue skies, warm sea and outdoor parties and dining that everyone is looking forward to. And this week we incorporate a little bit of pop-star influence, too.

**Yellow swimwear**

Geri Halliwell isn't just a pop star, she's a designer, too, and her range for Next will turn heads this summer. Stylish yellow bandeau

£22

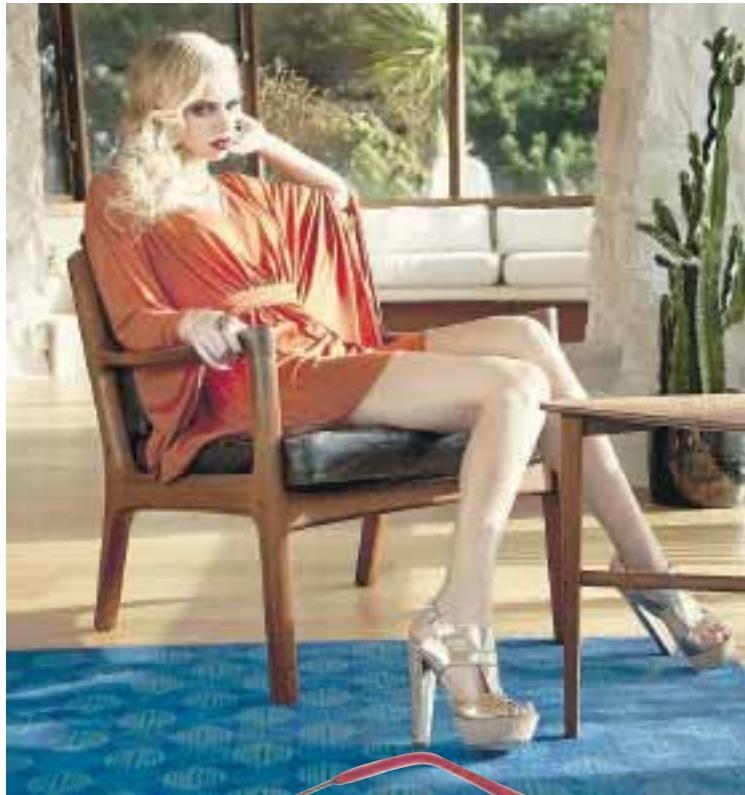
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£16

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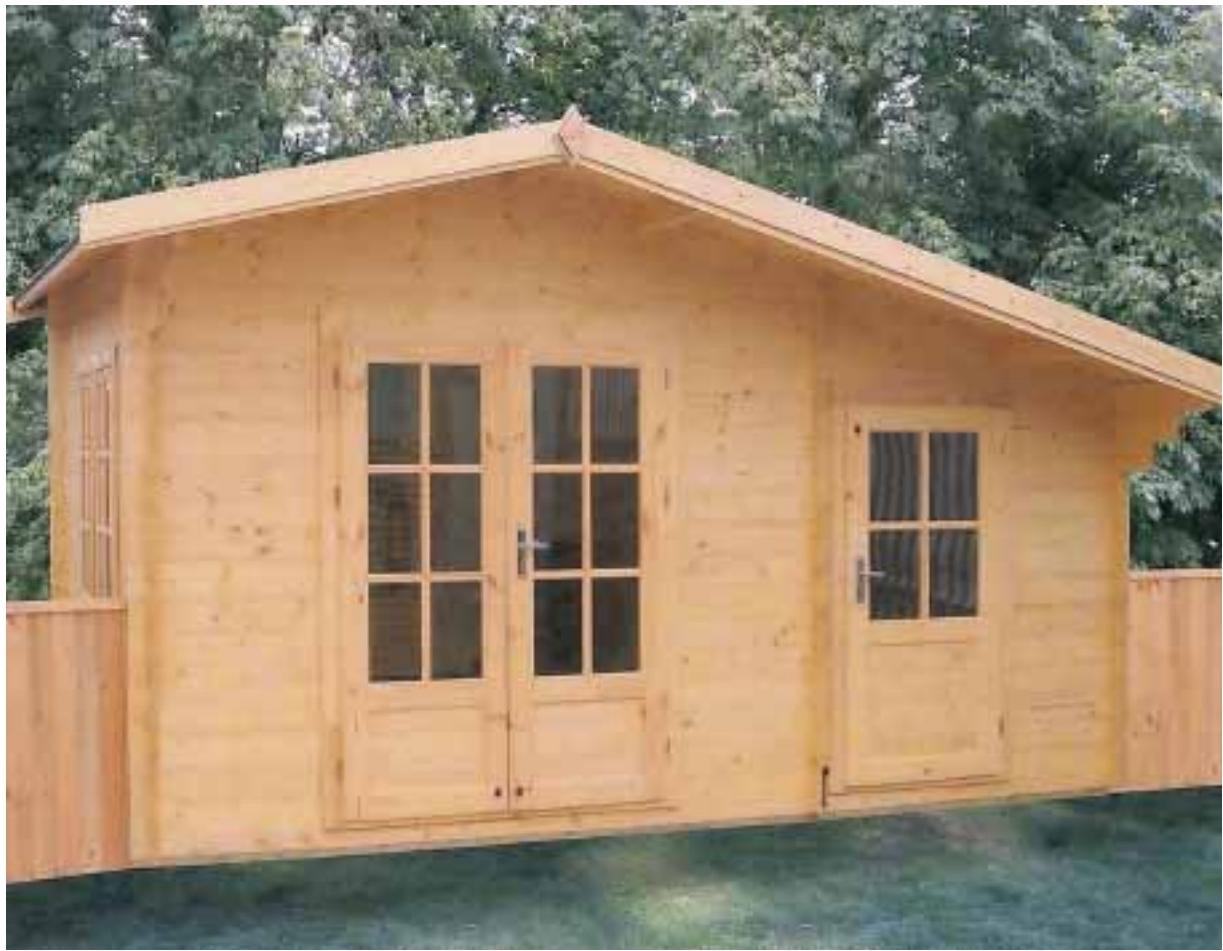
Bangal
Complete the summer look with these exotic-looking bangals from Isme
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www.isme.com



Handy bag
Keep your summer necessities safe and handy with this Primark bag
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Sandals
Easy on the feet and on the eye are these Roman-style plaited sandals from Head Over Heels
£35
www.shoestudio.com



■ Fremont with side shed. This is the most popular two-room cabin from Johnsons Garden Buildings. Prices from £1,995.



■ Eldorado. If it's a space-saver that you're looking for, this is the ideal model. Prices start from £3,449.

Need some extra space, maybe for a playroom or office? Then a stylish log cabin could be just what you're after...

JOHNSONS Garden Buildings prides itself on being one of the highest-quality suppliers of log cabins available in the UK and has become a name that people associate with quality and reliability.

Offering an extensive range of timber buildings to suit all budgets and requirements, it is also able to offer a bespoke service, meaning you can design your own building, made to measure.

All the log cabins are made from the highest-quality Siberian spruce timber with an interlocking system. This is far superior to the conventional panel options currently offered by other manufacturers.

Johnsons now has four display villages across Kent – Chestfield, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks.

The sales team has many years of experience in the industry and will be more than happy to assist and answer all the questions you may have regarding your building.

Johnsons Garden Buildings offers free site surveys and would recommend this service for larger or bespoke cabins. Most wooden buildings can be installed without planning permission, but if you are at all concerned, speak to one of the members of the sales team.

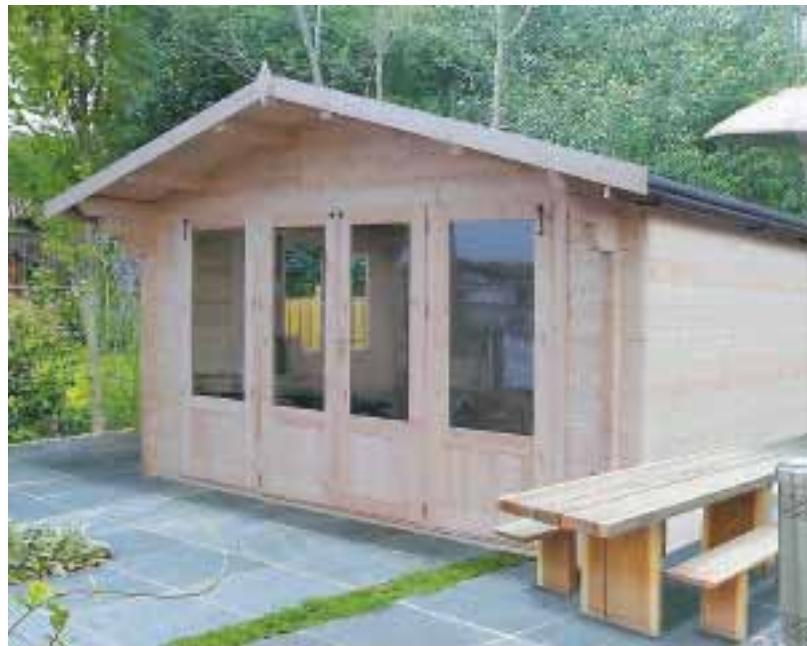
Johnsons specialise in completing the whole project from start to finish; from initial design to the finished article, providing turnkey solutions and options such as climate control and oak flooring for the discerning customer.

Once the cabin has been erected, your building will come with a 12-month structural warranty for that extra peace of mind.

So, whether you're looking for a summer house, playroom, garage, office or just an extra room to chill out, Johnsons can help.

With prices starting at just £1,349 from a company that prides itself on quality, service and customer satisfaction, Johnsons Garden Buildings is definitely worth a visit.

■ **Johnsons Garden Buildings**
Sales hotline local rate: 0845 45 99 444
website: www.johnsonsgardenbuildings.co.uk



■ Vancouver (top left) is light and spacious with a fully-glazed front. Prices from £1,499.

■ Alamosa (above) comes with an integral porch, ideal for home-office use. Prices from £3,799.

■ Delta compact corner cabin (left) can fit in most gardens. Prices start at £1,459.



Live in true Tudor style

**Sandtiles
Saltwood**

£675,000

■ ENTRANCE HALL ■ CLOAKROOM WITH TOILET ■ SPACIOUS L-SHAPED LIVING ROOM ■ DINING ROOM ■ INNER HALL ■ BUTLER'S PANTRY ■ KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM ■ THREE BEDROOMS (POTENTIAL FOR FOURTH) ■ EN-SUITE BATHROOM ■ FAMILY BATHROOM ■ ATTRACTIVE STONE FIREPLACES ■ DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE AND WORKSHOP ■ SELF-CONTAINED FLAT/STUDIO WITH KITCHENETTE AND BATHROOM ■ HALF-ACRE GARDEN WITH LARGE GREENHOUSE

THIS interesting Tudor-style home from the 1920s is now on the market. Sandtiles in Saltwood near Hythe is being marketed by local agency Champion and Co. The asking price for the property is £675,000 freehold.

It is a unique detached home, on the market for the first time in more than 30 years. The rear garden has a lovely outlook with glimpses of the sea.

The accommodation includes an entrance hall, cloakroom with toilet, spacious L-shaped living room, dining room, inner hall, butler's pantry and kitchen/breakfast room. There are three bedrooms (with the possibility of



reinstating a fourth), en-suite bathroom, family bathroom, burglar alarm, attractive stone fireplaces, detached double garage and workshop.

There is also a self-contained flat/studio

with kitchenette and bathroom. The half-acre garden is extremely well stocked and includes a large greenhouse.

The house has rendered elevations and is beamed and tile-hung under a tiled roof with

some flat-roof areas. It has lead-light double-glazing and gas central-heating. The studio above the garage could be used as an office if working from home.

Internally the property has many interesting



features of the arts and crafts style, including beamed rooms and oak throughout. There is ample parking for several vehicles and the gardens have many mature shrubs, trees and plants. The view across the lawn shows the sea in the distance.

Sandtiles is well located in a popular residential area close to the centre of Saltwood. There is a picturesque village green, shop, restaurant and public house.

Saltwood itself is about a mile or so from nearby Hythe, with its selection of supermarkets, shops, dentists, doctors and surgeries. The house is well placed for travelling. The M20 is about two miles away, placing Ashford and beyond within easy reach.

There is also a train station at Sandling, and the high-speed link can be caught from either Folkestone (five miles) or Ashford (12 miles) to St Pancras, which also offers Eurostar services to Paris and Brussels.

For the Continent the Channel Tunnel terminal on the outskirts of Folkestone is within easy reach by car, with Canterbury about 17 miles inland.

There are good local recreational facilities, including watersport clubs on the coast, cricket and tennis clubs at Hythe and fine golf courses.

The property has delightful views over adjoining school grounds, with the English Channel in the distance.

■ For further details, phone agent Champion and Company on 01303 260666





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ON BOARD: Whitstable properties have a range of attractive styles; weatherboarding is among them

Islington-on-Sea riding the storm

WHITSTABLE has enjoyed an extraordinary renaissance in recent years as it has been marketed – some would say over-marketed – as the classic weekend retreat for Londoners. While arguably not as fashionable or as attractive as East Anglian coastal towns like Southwold and Aldeburgh, or some resorts in the West Country, its ease of access and short distance from the capital has ensured that its latter-day tag of Islington-on-Sea is now widely known.

And there is unquestionably plenty to draw the DFLs (Down From Londons), with an ever-expanding range of restaurants, attractive beaches and charming shops and boutiques.

Whitstable's historic harbour and the famous oysters that have spread the town's name far and wide are just a couple of its attractions. There is also a castle with gardens.

Many of the more sought-after homes are along the distinctive and unusually-named alleyways that run throughout the town and are intertwined with its history.

Sales of homes in central Whitstable, especially those in the popular conservation area, have been robust despite the recession and buyers are more drawn to the town in the summer, with 75 per cent of all sales being completed between April and August.

Innovation is a feature of the town and the harbour, built in 1831, was the first in the



world to be served by a railway. It has been subject to a planning dispute in recent years, with nearby residents objecting to plans for a hotel and other development. The issue is still unresolved.

The internationally-renowned oyster festival and biennale provide weeks of entertainment.

Harbour Day is a day of celebration and focuses on the harbour, including the spectacular Thames barge race; a model railway celebrates both the harbour's history and today's operations.

The fishing fleet and a tour of the boat Union Pluto are added attractions.

Sited on the Long Beach, immediately east of the harbour basin, some 30 beach huts have been provided by the harbour board for rent.

Beach huts have been a feature of the Whitstable shoreline for more than a century and, painted in a multitude of colours, they bring a vibrancy to the seafront, offering an ideal base from which to enjoy not only the beach but everything else the town offers.

Seafront properties, when they come on the market, are still highly sought-after despite the economic downturn. Prices are relatively low on the outskirts of town but increase markedly along the seafront, where the desire for second homes is highest.

Among the celebrities who have made the town their home – either as permanent residents or as occasional visitors – are the late actor Peter Cushing, comic Harry Hill and TV presenter Janet Street-Porter.

PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT ON WHITSTABLE

What makes it special?

FAMOUS for its oysters and with a number of excellent restaurants, Whitstable is one of the most attractive seaside towns in Kent. Tourism thrives and the working harbour is home to many events. Historically, the town has a great literary and artistic heritage and it was home to one of the first railways ever built. Picturesque alleyways connect the town centre to the seafront and exploring them reveals hidden delights in the forms of cafes, pubs and shops every few hundred yards. It is now at the forefront of the alternative-energy generation as a vast windfarm has been constructed offshore.

Room to improve

THE popularity of the town can make it extremely crowded, especially in the summer. Booking is often necessary at the top restaurants. The main street is narrow, causing traffic congestion at peak periods and parking spaces are always sought after, again especially during the summer months.

Prices

AVERAGE price for a detached home at present is about the £400,000 mark, with new-build semis priced around £220,000. Character terraced houses are slightly more at £240,000, while flats, both one- and two-bedroom, vary from £140,000 to £170,000. Rentals are also available, with homes occupied in the summer sometimes available at good prices for the rest of the year. On the town's outskirts, prices drop quite dramatically as the character of the area becomes similar to any other small town.

Shops

THE town centre has all the usual convenience stores and there is an out-of-town shopping centre within easy reach. There is also a number



of speciality stores selling souvenirs and produce, especially the famous oysters.

The town is also home to a number of book and antique stores, which can be the source of excellent bargains. Among the restaurants in the town is the popular and award-winning Wheelers, with its front counter selling high-quality seafood. A farmers' market is held in Mary's Hall, Oxford Street, on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month between 9.30am and 2pm. It aims to have mostly organic-produce stalls, and all stalls are run by businesses within a 30-mile radius.

Schools

THE town's secondary school is The Community College Whitstable. It changed its name from Sir William Nottidge School in 1998. In 2009, 25 per cent of its pupils gained at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C.

Many students living in Whitstable commute to schools in other nearby towns, especially to the grammar schools in Faversham and Canterbury. The town's public primary schools include Whitstable Junior School, Whitstable And Seasalter Church Of England Junior School, Westmeads Infant School, Swalecliffe Community Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, St Alphege CofE

Primary School and Joy Lane Primary School.

Connections

WHITSTABLE is on the main London to Ramsgate railway line, with connections to London in about an hour and 30 minutes. Faversham station also has high-speed trains to London which take around one hour. Buses run frequently to Canterbury and the University of Kent, which is just outside the city. The A299 Thanet Way leads directly to the M2, which heads to London and the rest of the UK's motorway network via the M25.

What's on

THE Whitstable Oyster Festival is all about Whitstable, old and new. It is a week of festivity celebrating the town's fascinating history and unique heritage alongside its contemporary talent and enthusiasm for fun while at the same time commemorating the most famous local product. Whitstable Harbour Match sees vessels including oyster smacks and bawleys, replica smacks, Thames barges and traditional gaff-rigged boats taking part in races. There is also a theatre and museum.

Around and about

THE cathedral city of Canterbury is just seven miles away with its attractions, shops, restaurants and pubs. Herne Bay is a (quite long) seaside walk away and offers a slightly more brash seaside experience, while a few miles in the opposite direction is Faversham with its folk festival and Shepherd Neame brewery, which is open to visitors. Offshore are some of the strangest structures in Britain – a series of forts on high stilts which housed anti-aircraft guns during the Second World War. There are boat tours out to these eerie relics and to the more modern wind farms.

NEXT WEEK: PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON ROCHESTER

Computer Generated Image of Swale Park



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£575,000

Saddleton Road

THIS five/six-bedroom weatherboarded house has just been comprehensively refurbished. The property is on a double-width 45ft plot, set back from the road with a gravelled drive and off-street parking for two cars. On entering the property you are led down the entrance hall, which opens up in the stair hallway, to two bedrooms, a games room, bathroom, office, dining room, kitchen and living room. The first floor plays host to an additional two bedrooms and a second bathroom. The home's south-west-facing garden is 45ft wide and 62ft long and includes a 30ft sun-deck.

The green space is private and not overlooked. It also includes a shed and workshop and fruit trees. The property's location is ideal as it is just a 10-minute walk from Whitstable beach.

AGENT: Harvey Richards and West
01227 771196



Family house occupies an ideal setting

£379,995

Bayview Road

PERFECT setting, beautiful home – this individual four/five-bedroom detached family home is on a private road and within walking distance of Whitstable town centre. Good fast road links serving London are within reach. The house is offered for sale in immaculate condition throughout and has the benefits of double-glazing. Gas central-heating and stunning sea views.

AGENT: Miles & Barr
01227 200600

Weatherboarded property just minutes from the beach



Three-bedroom home in sought-after location

£412,500

Church Street

A RARE opportunity has arisen in the sale of this Hubert Childs-built home, in the highly sought-after location of Church Street. Ideally situated between

Whitstable and Tankerton, this wonderful three-bedroom detached house sits on an amazing 200ft x 60ft plot with uninterrupted field views to the front and a beautifully-created 105ft rear garden. The house was completed in 1959 and is arranged over two floors, totalling 1,249 sq ft. It includes a conservatory, garage, timber-glazed summer house and two shaded gazebos. The lawn stretches past two greenhouses and a gravel garden before ending at a vegetable patch. The perimeter has 10ft hedges and fencing.

AGENT: Harvey Richards and West
01227 771196



Home is close to both coast and the city

£595,950

Pean Hill

THIS detached family home is midway between Whitstable and Canterbury. It is on a plot of some 172ft x 82ft; accommodation comprises under-cover entrance porch, entrance hall, inner hall, lounge, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, dining room, reception room/bedroom five and a cloakroom to the ground floor. Upstairs is a galleried landing and four further bedrooms (two with en-suite) and a further family bathroom. There is a 100ft x 82ft secluded rear garden.

AGENT: Miles & Barr
01227 200600



No chain for this cosy cottage

£120,000

Borstal Hill

YOU won't get caught up in a chain when you buy this end-of-terrace cottage as it is being offered for sale with immediate vacant possession. This property is locally listed and has been owned by the current family for more than 30 years. The interior is laid

out in a typical fashion for the era, with a lounge and separate dining room plus kitchen on the ground floor and two bedrooms plus a bathroom on the first floor. To the rear of the house is a pretty cottage-style garden, which is partially walled and has a brick-built garden store. A bus stop practically outside provides a service into town.

AGENT: Ward & Partners
01227 772272

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Folkestone - Offers Invited

Site with planning permission for 4 x 1 bed and 3 x 2 bed apartments in Black Bull Road



Hawkinge - £399,950

Substantial bungalow with further potential and plot to rear with planning for a 3 bed detached bungalow



Ramsgate - £95,000

Single building plot with planning permission for a detached 3 bedroom house in Willsons Road

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Spacious family home

£850 pcm

Maydowns Road

THIS three-bedroom detached house is perfect for a family with friends as it sits behind a grand driveway that can accommodate three/four cars. The property is spacious throughout and in good decorative order. It boasts

a modern bathroom and kitchen and is found in the quiet, sought-after location of Chestfield. The house is in the centre of the town's hub, no more than a mile from the train station, hospital, school and supermarket. The property comes unfurnished and is available from next month.

AGENT: Miles & Barr
01227 647060



Beams highlight cottage's old charm

£750 pcm

Borstal Hill

BEAUTIFUL wooden beams run throughout the ground

floor of this immaculate two-bedroom cottage, which dates back to the 1600s. The property consists of an open-plan reception with separate kitchen, bedrooms, bathroom and separate toilet.

The private rear garden is a real gem and includes a large paved area, perfect for enjoying summer evenings.

AGENT: Harvey Richards & West
01227 647067



Ideal location near station and seaside

£750 pcm

Sydenham Street

THIS redecorated two/three-bedroom terraced house is in a conservation area and conveniently located within walking distance of shops, beach and train station. The property has a lounge, dining room, kitchen and bathroom, plus two double bedrooms and a single third bedroom off one of the doubles. The house also has a courtyard garden.

It is wholly suitable for a professional family and is available from mid-June.

AGENT: Miles & Barr
01227 647060



Oak flooring in two-bed bungalow

£1,200 pcm

Radnor Close

THIS stunning three/four-bedroom detached

bungalow offers spacious accommodation and has been refurbished throughout with solid-oak flooring, central heating and ample off-street parking including a garage. The property is in the quiet

village of Herne, which has excellent transport links to Herne Bay, Whitstable and Canterbury.

AGENT: Harvey Richards & West
01227 647067



Refurbished two-bed flat

£695 pcm

Bluefield Mews

THIS modern two-bedroom second-floor property would be ideal for a professional couple or a small family. The interior is immaculate throughout and has been recently refurbished, with the new kitchen notable.

The flat includes a bathroom, large lounge/diner and good-size bedrooms.

Drivers will enjoy discounted insurance rates as the property comes with a garage and allocated parking. The property, which is close to town, comes unfurnished.

AGENT: Miles & Barr
01227 647060



Stunning views on offer

£1,400 pcm

West Beach

A RARE opportunity to rent a two-bedroom house in a seafront location has arisen.

The property comprises two bedrooms with an additional

viewing room with a balcony offering stunning views over the estuary. Benefits include large rear garden with a raised decking area, off-street parking, ample storage and easy access to Whitstable.

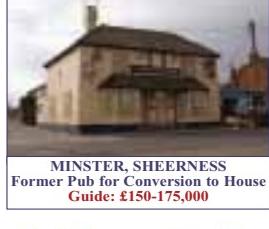
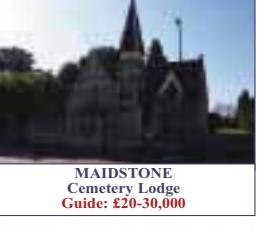
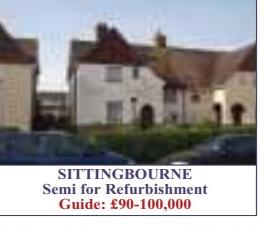
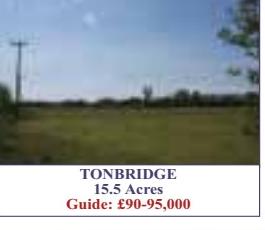
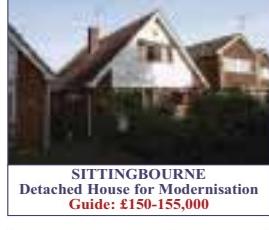
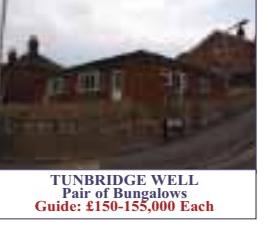
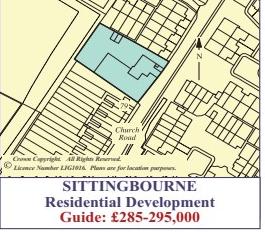
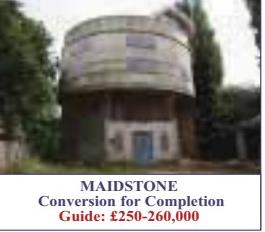
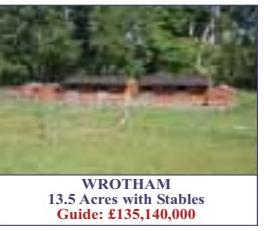
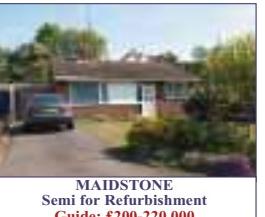
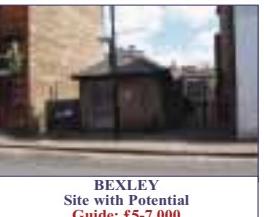
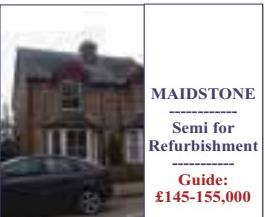
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Guide: £420-460,000



MAIDSTONE
Grade II Listed 6 Bed House
Guide: £300-330,000



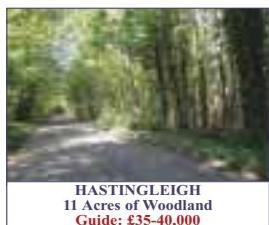
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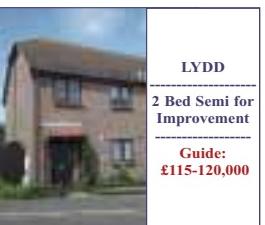
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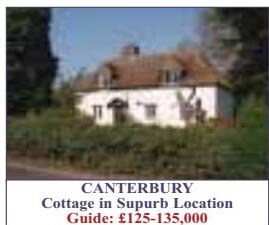
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Cottage in Suburb Location
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MARGATE
Three Bed House
Guide: £75-80,000



FOLKESTONE
Two Shops and Two Maisonettes
Guide: £100-110,000



RAMSGATE
Substantial Property with Potential
Guide: £230-240,000



WHITSTABLE
Site with Lapsed Planning
Guide: £155-165,000



RAMSGATE
Planning Permission for 5 Flats
Guide: £75-85,000



BIRCHINTON
Land with Potential
Guide: £120-130,000



FOLKESTONE
Development Site
Guide: £70-80,000



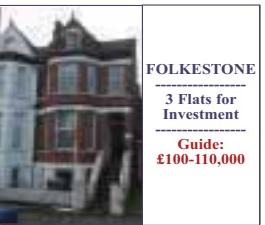
RAMSGATE
Maisonette for Refurbishment
Guide: £45-50,000



RAMSGATE
Residential Investment of 4 Flats
Guide: £160-170,000



FAVERSHAM
Development for 4 Large Dwellings
Guide: £425-475,000



FOLKESTONE
3 Flats for Investment
Guide: £100-110,000



RUCKINGE
6 Acres Grazing Land
Guide: £30-40,000



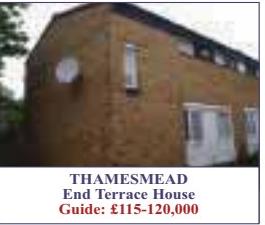
POSTLING
5 Light Ind Buildings and Paddock
Guide: £90-100,000



ASH, CANTERBURY
Detached Chalet Bungalow
Guide: £150-170,000



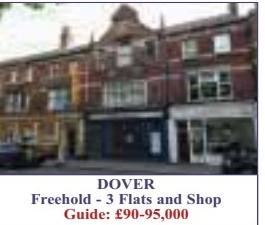
WHITSTABLE
Garages and Land with Potential
Guide: £20-25,000



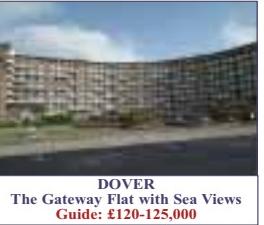
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End Terrace House
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CHATHAM
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DOVER
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DOVER
The Gateway Flat with Sea Views
Guide: £120-125,000

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First **GEAR**
MOTORING NEWS

- Audi to open order books for new Q3
- Skoda goes that extra green mile
- New Volvo i40 aimed at the Mondeo sector



Addition of
stop/start
technology
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Micra comes full circle

Nissan's latest supermini returns to functionality of the 1980s

SEE PAGE 83 FOR ROAD TEST

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Micra is still a little gem

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NISSAN'S original Micra arrived in the UK in 1983, not with a bang, but more of a whimper.

The all-new supermini model was all but ignored: the styling was bland and Japanese marques had an unremarkable record in that sector.

But over nearly 10 years' production, it won people over for its spaciousness, easy driving and reliability. It was a driving school favourite and, 20 years after its demise, first generation Micras are still common on UK roads.

Evidence of a slow burn is that it nearly made the UK sales top ten in 1990 – just two years before it was replaced.

But Nissan was careful next time to make the Micra more eye-catching; if ever a car could be called cuddly, then the Mark 2 of 1992 was just that. A six-year-old could have penned it, with Nissan appearing to issue a challenge to the motor market: "Just try ignoring that then, mate."

Being the first Micra built at the marque's Sunderland plant also helped UK buyers fall for the little car and when its replacement arrived in 2002, the visual attention to detail was even more evident.

This Mark 3 was so radically different to anything in its class that Nissan's marketing used a lexicon of new words to describe its characteristics, while the retro interior was almost a work of art.

Why the history lesson? Well Nissan has come full circle with the Mark 4 Micra launched here last year.

It signals a return to the functionality of the original 1980s car, while its UK link has also been severed: this car, like its Pixo city car sister, is built in India, leaving the production line slot at Sunderland to be commanded by the thrusting all-new Juke crossover supermini.

The story being told here is: as we all down-

EASY GOING:

Although the new Nissan Micra rides well and is good value for money, but don't expect rally-like performance

size, one supermini model cannot suit everyone in a sector where sales have mushroomed.

The latest Micra has become Nissan's default supermini option, while the butch-looking Juke goes for glamour sales against the likes of the BMW Mini, Fiat 500 and Citroën DS3.

So I climbed into the new Micra with a sense of déjà vu: the new car is roomy, incredibly easy to live with, rides well on increasingly patchy UK roads and will woo your wallet – just don't expect it to win your heart.

Like its Mark 1 forerunner, it does what it says on the tin, being cheap to buy (from £9,250) and taking you from A to B efficiently.

You don't even have to think hard about which version to buy, since there is just the one five-door hatch body and all five variants come with the same low emission 80PS (79bhp) 1.2-litre petrol engine, available with a

five-speed manual 'box able to average in the mid-50s for mpg, or a CVT auto that is only moderately more thirsty.

The engine may be thrifty and willing, but its three-cylinder layout makes it typically raucous at times if you try to wring out more revs.

But the conservative styling, smooth cruising from the high top gear, all-round economy, light and easy steering, a chassis set up for comfort, plus decent spec at a good price mean would-be buyers are not those looking for rally-like performance and handling.

The dashboard is quite funky, but the quality of the materials used does rather reflect the car's modest pricing. Rear space, particularly headroom, marks a big improvement over its predecessor though and the boot and overall load space with seats down is impressive for this class, again marking a return to the past.

NISSAN MICRA 1.2 TEKNA: PRICE £12,350



FACT FILE

Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
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Road tax:	£20/year
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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



Join the Q for for new Audi

AUDI has confirmed that order books will open in June for its new Q3 compact SUV, priced from £24,560.

It is the third in the sharply-styled Q-model series, but the first to offer a front-wheel drive economy variant.

This will deliver the possibility of averaging more than 50mpg by using a 2.0-litre TDI 140PS (138bhp) diesel.



Skoda worthy of green label

SKODA has recorded a remarkable 127.8mpg with its eco-friendly Skoda Greenline II.

Austrian economy driving specialist Gerhard Plattner, covered 1,246 miles from Austria to Denmark on a single 45-litre tank of fuel, bettering the 83.1mpg official combined fuel figure for the 74bhp 1.2-litre diesel hatchback, which is priced at £13,685.



i40 saloon set to be unveiled

HYUNDAI has unveiled the saloon version of its upcoming i40 contender in the 'D' or so-called Mondeo sector.

The car's debut at the Barcelona Motor Show followed the global debut of the i40 estate at Geneva in March.

The i40 arrives in the fourth quarter of 2011, backed by Hyundai's five-year unlimited warranty.

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Classy 308 joins stop/start revolution

1ST DRIVE

BY SAM DAVISON editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PEUGEOT has put down a marker in the eco motoring sector as part of a comprehensive facelift for its 308 family hatchback, arriving at dealers now.

The 3008 is now offered with the French marque's slick e-HDi stop and start technology and partnered with a manual gearbox – e-HDI made its debut just a few weeks ago on Peugeot's classy new 508 company car motor, but minus the clutch pedal.

That version does not really wow the driver, though the sums add up for company drivers.

The six-speed manual version fitted to the 308, on the other hand, puts the driver more in touch. It underlines its value too with a running total of how long the engine is switched off while sitting at the lights, or simply crawling in stop-go traffic. I was staggered to see 10 minutes logged on a journey that took 30 minutes.

Of course, it would be even better if it could tell you how much fuel it saved in that time, but this is probably a tall order – maybe next time though, judging by technical strides now being made across the motor industry.

But are stop/start systems for everyone? Only if they come bundled as part of the bargain. If



you don't do much city driving and must pay extra – it starts at around £900 with the 308 – then maybe it's not for you.

The revitalised 308 range (from £15,245) does deserve careful consideration though. Peugeot calls it 'new 308', which is a bit over the top since the car was launched in 2007, and then as a comprehensive re-work of its 307 predecessor. There's nothing wrong in that when the 308's two arch-rivals, the Ford Focus and VW Golf, have also virtually skipped a generation too in recent years.

I mention it though because, while 307 styling could be seen in the 308, the car was a revelation inside and on the road; Peugeot reset the bar very high on interior design and quality

at this level, while the 308's on-road standards were a notch higher than its predecessor's.

The pièce de résistance came with the coupe convertible 308CC spin-off two years later, offering a leather dashboard option that would not have disgraced a car costing twice the price.

For the facelift, there are tweaks to the cabin but the main points of difference are meander and cleaner engines with lower road tax, a 25-kilo cut in weight across the range and exterior styling touches that make the car sleeker and smarter, paying dividends with a segment-beating 0.28 drag coefficient on fuel economy versions.

Most noticeable cosmetically though is a toning down of the Peugeot 'gaping maw'

grille, noticeably absent – thank heavens – from the elegant 508. The 308 front end now looks cleaner and fresher, while LED running lights give a more upmarket look.

There is the usual wide choice of engines with Peugeot's legendary diesels expected to take two-thirds of sales, augmented in July by a road tax beating, low-emission eco diesel model, the Oxygo. The five-door hatch will continue to dominate body choice, with the CC (from £21,295) taking around two per cent of sales and the SW (estate) taking about eight. However, the latter (from £16,245) continues to impress with its mix of capacity and class, plus the brilliant full-length glass roof fitted to all but the entry models.

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1. Interest Free Finance offer requires a 50% deposit, other offers are available – ask for details. Indemnities may be required.

2. List price shown is for an ASX 2.1 6 petrol and includes VAT (at 20%), excludes VED and First Registration Fee. Metallic paint extra. Model shown is an ASX 3 1.6 petrol at £18,449 including metallic paint.

Offer is only applicable in the UK (excludes Channel Islands & I.O.M), subject to availability, whilst stocks last and may be amended or withdrawn at any time. Price correct as at 1st April 2011. Offer available between 1st April and 30th June 2011.

ASX range fuel consumption in mpg (ltrs/100km): Urban 42.2 – 37.7 (6.7 – 7.5),

Extra Urban 58.9 – 56.5 (4.8 – 5.0), Combined 51.4 – 47.9 (5.5 – 5.9), CO₂ emissions 135 – 150 g/km.



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TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£4050.70
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34 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£98.02
FINAL PAYMENT	£248.02
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	36 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	15.8%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	24.9%

07/07 FORD FIESTA 1.4 STYLE (CLIMATE) 5DR



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DEPOSIT/PART EXCHANGE	£600
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£5099
PURCHASE FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£10
CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£310
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£7494.36
INITIAL PAYMENT	£170
46 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£139.88
FINAL PAYMENT	£289.88
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	48 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	12.76%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	16.6%

09/09 FORD FOCUS 1.8 STYLE 5DR



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CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£310
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£9825.96
INITIAL PAYMENT	£945.36
35 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£175.36
OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	£2543
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	37 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	13.92%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	17.4%

09/09 FORD KUGA DIESEL ZETEC 2.0 TDCI 5DR



£17499

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CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£310
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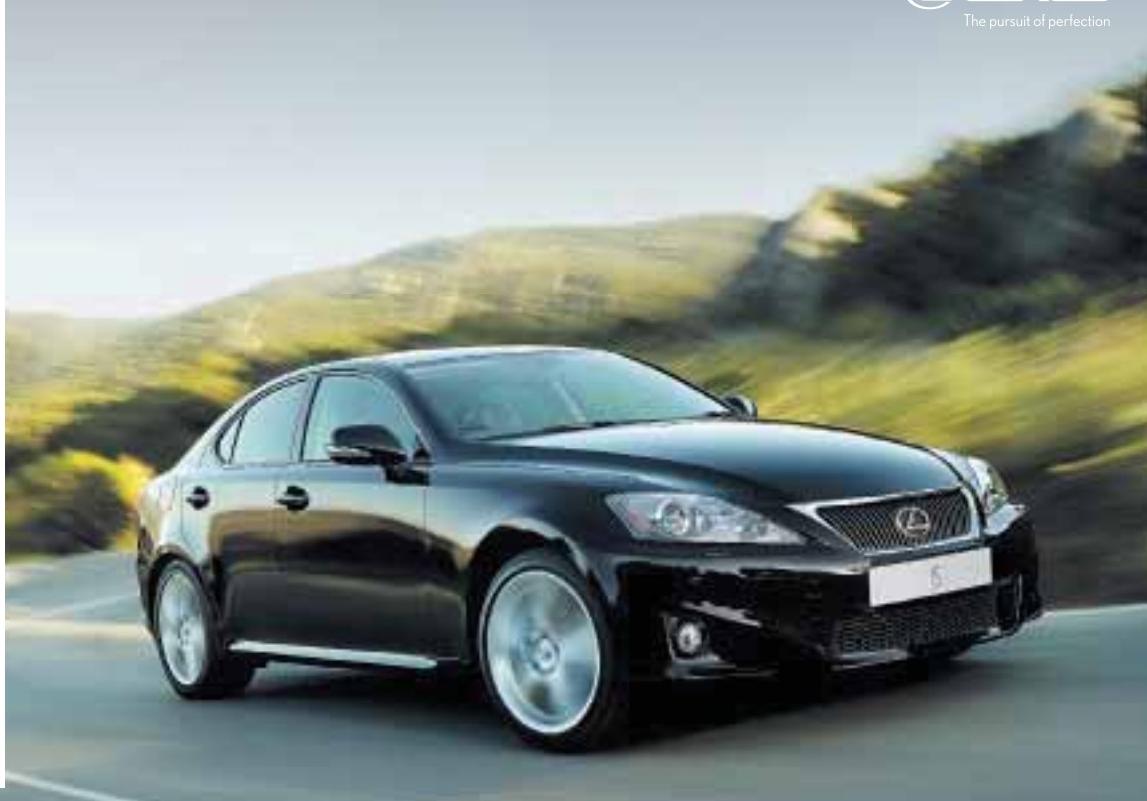
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IS Series prices start from £24,870 OTR. Model shown IS 200d Advance costing £25,605 OTR including optional metallic paint at £610. Price correct at time of going to press and includes VAT, delivery, number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. †9.9% APR Representative over 3 years on Lexus Connect Contract Purchase available on IS 200d Advance and IS 250 Advance, when ordered between 1 April and 30 June 2011 and registered and financed between 1 April and 30 September 2011, through Lexus Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 30,000 miles at 12 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Subject to availability.

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SAAB 9-5 2.2 TiD Vector, 5 Doors, Automatic, Estate, Diesel, 2004
04 Reg., 75,166 miles, Metallic SILVER, 3 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Elec windows, Anti theft system, Elec mirrors, Air con, Radio/Cassette, Alarm, ABS remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Solid Paint, Partial leather seat trim, Central locking, Computer, Full Service History, Metallic paintwork, Insurance Group: 13, £6,195

2005 05 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 91,350 miles, Metallic silver, 2 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Roof rails, Radio/Cassette, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Elec door mirrors/windows, PAS, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Insurance Group: 17, £5,995

SAAB 9-3 2.0T SE Convertible, 2 Doors, Manual, Convertible, Petrol, 2001 Y Reg., 52,813 miles, Metallic GREY, 1 Owner. ABS, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Air con, Cruise control, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Side airbags, Climate Control, Radio/CD, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Heated door mirrors, PAS, Rear electric windows, Trip computer, Climate Control, Metallic paintwork, Remote locking, Audio remote control. Insurance Group: 15E, £3,995

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OTHER MAKES

2000 W Reg PEUGEOT 306 1.6 Meridian, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 53,164 miles, Metallic RED, 2 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Alarm, ABS remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Solid Paint, Partial leather seat trim, Central locking, Computer, Full Service History, Metallic paintwork, Insurance Group: 5E, £1,750

2002 02 Reg FIAT Punto 1.2 Mia, 3 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 82,859 miles, BLUE, Folding rear seats, Lumbar support, Immobiliser, Radio/Cassette, Drivers airbag, Height adjustable drivers seat, PAS, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Rear wiper, Space saver spare wheel. Insurance Group: 4P, £1,695

NISSAN Primera 2.0 16v SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2000 X Reg., 156,076 miles, Metallic BLUE, 5 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Elec door mirrors/windows, Heated door mirrors, PAS, Trip computer, Climate Control, Metallic paintwork, Remote locking, Audio remote control. Insurance Group: 13E, £1,395

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CAR OF THE WEEK

* **07 Plate. Volkswagen Golf 2.0 T GTI FSi 5-Dr**
2007 Special Edition Steel Grey Metallic Manual Petrol with full leather interior many extras FSH 34,600 miles £13,495

Used Cars

* **08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback**
Beige Metallic, Manual Petrol with black cloth interior 30,340 miles £5,495

* **08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 16V (85 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback**
Finished in Black Metallic Two Tone with a Black Cloth interior, 25,100 miles, £7,295

* **08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback**
Brilliant Silver Metallic Manual Petrol with a black cloth interior 14,900 miles, £7,495

* **10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 (70 BHP) SE 5-Dr Hatchback**
Finished in White Mica Two Tone with a Black Cloth interior, 14,150 miles, £9,295

* **07 Plate. Skoda Superb 2.0 TDi PD 140 Elegance 4-Dr Saloon**
Blue Storm Metallic Manual Diesel with a black leather interior 37,500 miles £9,995

*Correct at time of going to press.

* **07 Plate. Skoda Superb 2.0 TDI PD 140 Elegance 4-Dr Saloon**

Pearlescent Black Magic Manual Diesel with black leather trim 68,680 miles £8,995

* **10 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI CR vRS 5-Dr**
Black Magic Metallic, Manual Diesel with multi-colour velour-leather interior 20,500 miles £15,995

* **08 Plate. Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback**
Satin Grey Metallic Manual Diesel with black interior 13,750 miles £10,495

* **08 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 T FSI vRS 5-Dr Hatchback**
Race Blue Metallic Manual Petrol with Multi colour velour & leather interior 23,444 miles £11,995

Other Makes

* **04 Plate. Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi Exclusive 5-Door MPV**
Cool Mint Metallic, Manual Diesel with a Grey cloth interior, 47,712 miles £5,495

* **05 Plate. Citroen C5 1.6 HDi 16v 110 Design 5-Dr**
Beige Metallic Manual Diesel 47,500 miles £4,995

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* **09 Plate. Ford Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr Hatchback**

Red Manual Diesel with a Black cloth interior 34,449 miles £8,995

* **54 Plate. Honda Civic 2.0 Type S 5-Dr Hatchback**
Finished in Nighthawk Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles, £5,795

* **06 Plate. Peugeot Partner Combo MPV 1.6 HDi 90 Escapade**
Aluminium Metallic Manual Diesel with a silver cloth interior 21,500 miles £5,995

* **09 Plate. Suzuki SX4 1.6 SZ4 4-Door Saloon Nov 2009**
Red Metallic Manual Petrol 39,080 miles £7,995

* **09 Plate. Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Active 16v 5-Dr Hatchback**
Black Sapphire Metallic Manual Petrol with a black cloth interior 28,215 miles £6,995

* **56 Plate. Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI Sport (140 PS) 5-Dr**
Finished in Steel Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 80,100 miles, £8,995



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IS, 03 SE Auto, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirror power steering reverse camera satelite navigation, silver, 32,261 miles, £13,000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

6, 1.8, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £21,200, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

6, 2.2d (163) TS2, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels blue+white colour cd player climate control cruise control diesel electric windows heated seats immobiliser metallic paint mp3 player power steering trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking iso child seat points auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 27,806 miles, £14,000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, 2.2 200 LE (Limited Edition), 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels blue+white colour cd player climate control front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 27,806 miles, £14,000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

IS, 2.2 220d, 2008, velvet black, 32,929 miles, £14,000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, 250 Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking climate control electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, slate, 17,849 miles, £12,000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LS, IS 250 SR AUTO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, red, 15,800 miles, £14,000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CX-7, 2.3, 2008, 4x4 abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid tinted glass curtain airbags remote central locking iso child seat points remote audio controls adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 27,806 miles, £14,000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LS, IS 250 SR AUTO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 27,806 miles, £14,000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MK-5, ROADSTER COUPE, 2007, abs brakes air alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tinted glass remote central locking iso child seat points remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers grey, 14,000 miles, £10,500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RX-8, R3, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys blue car kit central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history half leather trim heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player power steering multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer twin airbags xenon headlights front parking sensors remote central locking auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers blue, 15,300 miles, £13,000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3, 1.6 TAKARA 5DR, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear armrest rear headrests heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, velocity, 15,300 miles, £13,000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RX-8, COUPE 231PS 4DR, 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys blue car kit central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multi cd player leather interior sports seats xenon headlights remote central locking iso child seat points blue, 30,117 miles, £8,000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MINI, COOPER, 1.6, 2005, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, red, 38,123 miles, £7,000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

COOPER, S, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering remote central locking, red, 37,011 miles, £8,000, Maidstone, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

3, TAKARA 5DR, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multi cd player leather interior power steering trip computer, red, 31,000 miles, £10,900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

COOPER, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, silver, 16,112 miles, £5,000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6 D CLUBMAN, 2009, black, 60,800 miles, £11,995, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

COOPER, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows power steering, black, 28,000 miles, £10,000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6, 2002, abs brakes alloy wheels electric windows immobiliser power steering twin airbags remote central locking, dark silver, 58,449 miles, £7,000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6, 2002, abs brakes alloy wheels electric windows immobiliser power steering twin airbags remote central locking, dark silver, 58,449 miles, £7,000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ASTRA 1.4 16v Hatch 2010.5MY, 2010, approved mileage verified title check cd 30 mp3/radio/cd vx styling pack one air-conditioning central door locking (remote) seating capacity (five seats) electric windows (front) deadlocks immobiliser anti-lock brakes power-assisted steering side protection mouldings roof rails upholstered cloth air bag driver air bag passenger chassis (sport) electronic brake force distribution, red, 2065 miles, £1095, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ASTRA 1.4i 16v Sport 2009MY, 2009, approved mileage verified title check sight cd mp3/radio/cd vx styling pack one air-conditioning central door locking (remote) seating capacity (five seats) mirrors external (manual) adjustable steering column/wheel (rake/reach) seat height adjustment (driver) head restraints (front/rear) speakers (seven) deadlocks immobiliser anti-lock brakes power-assisted steering body coloured bumpers side protection mouldings steering wheel leather upholstery cloth air bag driver, silver, 8040 miles, £960, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ASTRA 1.4i 16v VVT 2010MY, 2010, approved mileage verified title check cd 30 mp3/radio/cd sight cd mp3; light pack air-conditioning central door locking (remote) steering wheel mounted controls (audio) mirrors external (electric/heated) adjustable steering column/wheel (rake/reach) seat height adjustment (driven head restraints (front/rear) electric windows (front) deadlocks immobiliser anti-lock brakes power-assisted steering body coloured bumpers steering wheel leather upholstery cloth air bag driver air bag passenger rear sensor, silver, 5010 miles, £995, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ASTRA 1.6i 16v VVT (115PS) auto 2010MY, 2010, approved title check air-conditioning central door locking (remote) spare wheel (spacersaver) steering wheel mounted controls (audio) seating capacity (five seats) mirrors external (electric/heated) adjustable steering column/wheel (rake/reach) seat height adjustment (driven head restraints (front/rear) electric windows (front) speakers (seven) deadlocks immobiliser anti-lock brakes power-assisted steering cruise control cup holder seats split rear electronic stability programme upholstery cloth, silver lake (silver), 11100 miles, £12995, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ASTRA 1.4i 16v VVT (100PS) 1364cc 2010MY, 2010, approved mileage verified title check air-conditioning central door locking (remote) spare wheel (spacersaver) steering wheel mounted controls (audio) seating capacity (five seats) mirrors external (electric/heated) adjustable steering column/wheel (rake/reach) seat height adjustment (driven head restraints (front/rear) electric windows (front) speakers (seven) deadlocks immobiliser anti-lock brakes power-assisted steering body coloured bumpers steering wheel leather upholstery cloth air bag driver, silver, 3000 miles, £11495, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ASTRAVAN 1.7CDTi 16v 2007MY, 2010, approved mileage verified title check air-conditioning paint two-coat metallic paint two-coat pearlescent roof rails steering wheel audio controls electrically adjustable/heated door mirrors air-conditioning central door locking (remote) in car entertainment (radio/cd) steering wheel mounted controls (audio) seating capacity (two seats) head restraints (front) mirrors external (electric/heated) alloy wheels (16in) seat lumbar support (driver/ passenger) adjustable steering column/wheel (rake/reach) seat height adjustment (driven/passenger) electric windows (front) deadlocks immobiliser, sovereign silver (silver), 6 miles, £10495, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

COMBO 1.3CDTi 16v, 2010, approved title check central door locking (remote) in car entertainment (radio/cassette) seating capacity (two seats) head restraints (front) mirrors external (manual) adjustable steering column/wheel (rake/reach) two deadlocks external temperature display cup holder side protection mouldings bulkhead sunroof visor upholstered cloth air bag driver seat belt pre-tensioners (front) load anchorage points, glacier white (white), 17005 miles, £7495, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

COMBO 1.3CDTi 16v, 2010, approved mileage verified title check central door locking (remote) in car entertainment (radio/cassette) seating capacity (two seats) head restraints (front) mirrors external (manual) a speakers (two) deadlocks immobiliser anti-lock brakes external temperature display side protection mouldings bulkhead sunroof visor upholstered cloth air bag driver seat belt pre-tensioners (front) load anchorage points, glacier white (white), 6 miles, £8495, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

COMBO, CDTi Crew Cab, 2006, silver, 70000 miles, £3750, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

COMBO, CDTi Crew Cab, 2006, silver, 70000 miles, £3750, Ashford, 0844 856 9118 (TRADE)

COMBO, CDTi Crew Cab, 2006, silver, 70000 miles, £3750, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.4 SXi A/C, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 36096 miles, £7800, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, 16V Design, 2009, silver, 63262 miles, £7299, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, CDTi (90) Design, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 70405 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, 16V Club(AC), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, blue, 6849 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, SPECIAL EDITION Active, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels power steering, colorado red, 12800 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, DESIGN, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels power steering, blue, 38217 miles, £6300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.2 16v Design, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 3200 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.3 Design CDTI, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, ultra blue, 11497 miles, £8500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.4 SXi, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts, star silver, 14887 miles, £7500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, DESIGN, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels power steering, black, 35962 miles, £6300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, Design, 2009, silver, 23084 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.2 ACTIVE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering trip computer front parking sensors remote central locking auto headlights and wipers quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, silver, 13737 miles, £7299, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.2 ACTIVE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, ultra blue, 11497 miles, £8500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.4 SXi, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights power steering trip computer body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts, star silver, 14887 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CORSA, CDTi SXi, 2003, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, silver, 93000 miles, £3200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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54 Ford Fiesta 1.6 Ghia, 2005, Manual, Petrol, Hatchback, Blue, 25,000 Miles.....	£4,695
04 Ford Focus 1.6 Ghia, 2004, Manual, Petrol, Hatchback, Grey, 75,000 Miles.....	£3,995
52 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 2003, Hatchback, Silver, 33,000 miles.....	£3,695
03 FORD Focus 1.8 Ghia 2003, Manual, Petrol, Hatchback, Green, 41,000 miles.....	£3,695
53 FORD Focus 1.8 LX, 2003, Manual, Petrol, Hatchback, Silver, 69,000 miles.....	£3,695
03 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec, 2003, Manual, Petrol, Hatchback, Blue, 54,000 miles.....	£3,495
03 FORD Fiesta 1.3 LX, 2003, Manual, Petrol, Hatchback, Red, 48,000 miles.....	£3,495
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02 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec, 2002, Manual, Petrol, Hatchback, Silver, 89,000 miles.....	£2,795
T FORD Focus 1.8 Ghia, 1999, Manual, Petrol, Saloon, Red, 62,000 miles.....	£1,695
X FORD Fiesta 1.25 LX 16V, 2001, Hatchback, Green, 75,000 miles.....	£1,495

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55 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8i 2005, Life, Manual, Petrol, Estate, Blue, 35,000 miles.....	£4,995
53 VAUXHALL Scenic 1.6 VVT Dynamique 2004, Manual, Petrol, Estate, Red, 64,000 miles.....	£3,995
03 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8 Club, 2003, Manual, Petrol, Estate, Burgundy, 43,000 miles.....	£3,995
05 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi 16v Sri, 2005, Manual, Diesel, Hatchback, Blue.....	£3,995
55 Chevrolet Tacuma 1.6 SX, 2005, Manual, Petrol, Estate, Silver, 37,000 Miles.....	£3,295
52 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8 Club, 2002, Estate, Auto, Grey, 68,000 miles.....	£2,995
Y Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 Elegance, 2001, Manual, Petrol, Estate, Grey, 75,000 Miles.....	£2,495
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52 Renault Laguna 1.8 16v Privilege, 2002, Manual, Petrol, Estate, Grey.....	£1,995
52 NISSAN Micra 1.0 Twister, 2002, Hatchback, Grey, 74,000 miles.....	£1,995

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T LAND ROVER Discovery 2.5 Td5E, 1999, 4x4, Auto, Diesel, Burgundy, 91,000 miles.....	£5,995
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S LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8i 1998, Hardback, Manual, Petrol, 4x4, Green, 3dr.....	£2,395

AUTOMATICS

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02 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec, 2002, Automatic, Petrol, Estate, Silver, 76,000 miles.....	£2,995
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41 monthly payments	£169.33
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Duration of agreement	43 months
Representative APR	5.4%
Interest rate (fixed)	4.07%



*Special offer price of £9,995 available on Swift SZ2 3 door only. Low monthly payments available across the Swift range. [†]Included in the monthly payments and final payment. Finance available subject to status, Indemnities may be required. For full details please contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. The offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Suzuki Finance, part of Black Horse Group, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff CF10 5BH. This offer is subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st April 2011 and 30th June 2011 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. The Swift 1.2 M/T model falls into Government Vehicle Excise Band C at £30 from year 2 onwards, first year free. Engine start button and Bluetooth capability is available on SZ4 models only. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.

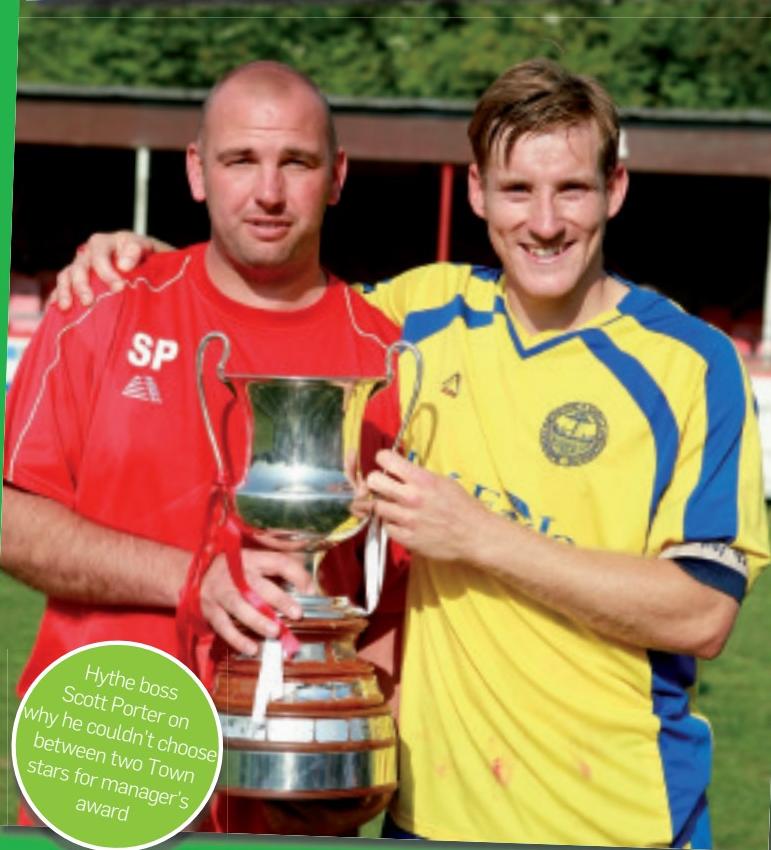
Model shown is the Swift SZ2 3 door M/T available at £9,995* on the road (metallic paint at £399).

Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 46.3 (6.1), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 64.2 (4.4), combined from 50.4 (5.6) to 56.5 (5.0). Official CO₂ emissions from 129g/km to 116g/km.

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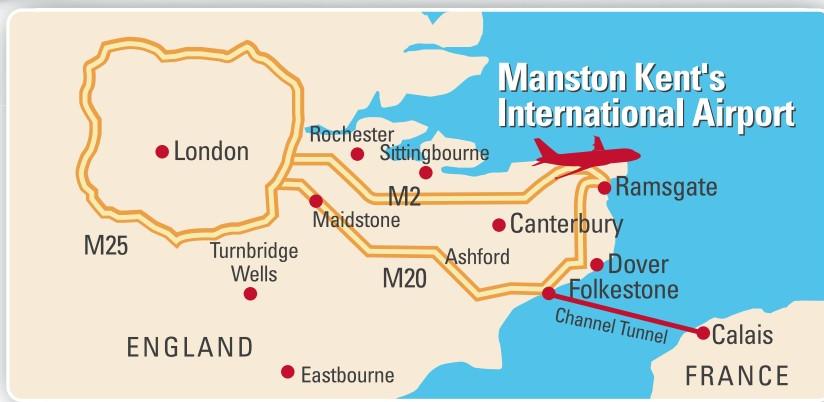
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